

# Independent

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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 Shehbaz said CPEC was going to turn around Pakistan's economy through the multiple programmes and initiatives. He also expressed grati-

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**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.

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

Can be done with joint efforts and consultation:

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

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

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that it is a really a challenge to improve the standard of education in the province, however, it can be done with consultation and joint efforts.

He underlined the need to learn the modern skills and expertise and acquaintance of the ever-new technology in view of the increasing importance of artificial intelligence and robotic technology in the province.

The Governor was speaking to the Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS), Dr. Khalid Hafeez who called on him



here at the Governor House on Monday. Also present in the meeting was the Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai.

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

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

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



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.



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

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

CS says special focus would remain on five high risk districts including Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Chaman and Mastung in campaign

Independent Report

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

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

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

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

Special focus would remain on five high risk districts including Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Chaman and Mastung as well as the eight high risk districts including Jaffarabad, Duki, Khuzdar, Loralai, Killa Saifullah, Zhob, Naseerabad and Shirani.

Earlier, while chairing a

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QUETTA: MPA Asghar Tareen meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

## NA likely to be dissolved on August 11

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

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

Advice will be communicated to the president on August 11 after consultation.

If president does not sign it then the assembly will stand dissolved automatically within 48 hours.

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

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

It is binding on government and opposition to complete consultation process in regard to caretaker PM within three days and send the name.

In the event of non consensus, the election commission will announce the name of care taker PM within three days out of proposed names.

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

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

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

## SC disposes of case against Justice Isa

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

Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial conducted in chamber hearing in the case, filed by Riaz Hanif Rahi Advocate. Earlier, the Registrar Office had raised various objections against the petition and the petitioner had filed an in chamber appeal against it.

The petitioner had filed the case seeking contempt of court proceeding against SC's judge for running proceeding on audio tapes in inquiry commission. However, the petitioner prayed the court to grant permission to withdraw his case which was accepted by the chief justice. The court subsequently disposed of the case.

## 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



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

## 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.

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

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

tion, both in letter and spirit.

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

The minister said that after consulting with allies, the prime minister will consult with the leader of opposition in the National Assembly to take a decision on the matter, as per the Constitution.

## PM meets Fazal, condoles over death of party workers

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

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

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed souls in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the loss with fortitude.

He said he had ordered the provision of the best medical treatment to the injured, and assured that those involved in the incident would be identified and given exemplary punishment.

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

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

The training program would be started from September this year in Technical Vocational and Education

## 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

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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.

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

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The training program would be started from September this year in Technical Vocational and Education

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

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

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



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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Khuram Dastgir said that we have also operationalized Thar-Matiari transmission line for supply of electricity from Tharcoal projects. He said work on three more transmission lines is in progress to improve the transmission system.

The Minister for Power said that the circular debt which was standing at record level of 2467 billion rupees in March last year, has been brought down by 157 billion rupees to 2310 billion rupees. He said we have stopped the increase in circular debt.

Khuram Dastgir said the government is now focusing on renewable energy. He said solar power projects will be offered to the friendly countries in the Gulf countries this week for investment. He was confident that the solar projects will attract massive investment.

Responding to a question, the Minister for Power clarified that no increase has been made in the power tariff of those who use less than two hundred units per month.

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



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

### NA passes Army Act...

**Continued from page 1**  
(Amendment) Bill, 2023. The minister highlighted the salient features of legislation as both of these bills have been approved by the Senate.

He also laid the annual report of the National Commission for Human Rights for the period from December 2021 to December 2022, as required by sub-section (2) of section

28 of the National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012.

State Minister for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan moved the Cantonments (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Board of Investment (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which were passed by the House.

Later, the House was adjourned to meet again on August 1, 2023 (Tuesday) at 11 am.

### PM hopes CPEC 2nd phase to spur further...

**Continued from page 1**  
tude to the Chinese leadership for supporting Pakistan at the critical juncture with financial support and thanked the Export-Import Bank of China and commercial banks for their loans' roll over in the last few months.

“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 Communist Party, He Lifeng, the ministers, members of the Chinese delegation, parliamentarians, chief ministers, senior officials and relevant authorities.

The prime minister also thanked the Chinese leadership and other friendly nations for their support during the negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which he termed one of the challenges faced by Pakistan.

He said it also provided them an opportunity “of introspection and moment to carve out a way forward,” and to emulate the Chinese model of development.

He underlined that Pakistan needed Chinese expertise and to learn from their experiences as taking 800 million people out of poverty in just three and half decades was a miracle which had never happened in the world.

It was possible only through the visionary leadership, hard work and journey of sweating blood by the Chinese leadership and the people, he further opined.

The prime minister said during their meeting today, they had announced joint working groups to further boost their cooperation in diverse fields for the mutual benefits of the ‘iron brothers’.

He said there was complete unanimity among the 220 million people of Pakistan and its entire political and military leadership that China was a sincere friend.

“Pakistan soon, one day, will stand on its feet

and we will generate our own resources, eliminate poverty and provide jobs as China did,” he added.

Welcoming the Chinese vice premier and his delegation, the prime minister said the decade of CPEC was a great journey of friendship between the two countries, which had started since China won its independence during 1949.

The friendship was further accelerated through sincerity of purpose and commitment by many Pakistani leaders starting from Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who made huge contributions in that regard while the subsequent leaders also promoted it, he added.

The prime minister termed the bilateral ties between the two countries ‘a unique relationship’, saying the entire spectrum of the Pakistani nation and the people from all walks of life were committed to the great friendship.

He said President Xi’s visit to Pakistan, in the past, had been postponed for certain reasons which he did not want to elaborate and if it were not delayed the CPEC projects would have blossomed and completed earlier.

He said under the agreement signed by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and President Xi, the CPEC projects had witnessed a lightning speed and were completed in record period of time.

The prime minister recollected that at that point of time, the power outages had crippling affects upon industry and agriculture of Pakistan, besides its exports were damaged irreparably as they could not manage export orders.

Industry had come to a grinding halt, rendering thousands and thousands of people out of jobs, he said, adding that time CPEC came to their rescue as different projects were completed in a record period of time.

He further said that \$25 billion was invested during that period which created huge jobs, enhanced the country’s production and proved as a game changer which was a result of the vision and commitment of President Xi for the people of Pakistan.

The prime minister also praised the former Chinese ambassador to Paki-



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

### Saudi envoy meets JUI Chief to express condolences over blast

ISLAMABAD (Online): Saudi ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed al-Maliki has arrived at the residence of JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and expressed his condolences to Maulana Fazlur Rehman on the Bajaur blast.

During the meeting, he prayed for the martyrs of the Bajaur blast and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

### Pakistan-China friendship... Continued from page 1

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.

Meanwhile, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng expressed his determination to further develop relations between the two friendly countries.

Lifeng stressed the need for increasing cooperation in the fields of industries, culture, and health.

“China is committed to increasing investment in various sectors in Pakistan,” Lifeng maintained.

### Shamyl’s not out 57 leads Shaheens’ to nine-wicket win

DARWIN (APP): Pakistan Shaheens thrashed ACT Comets by nine wickets at the DXC Arena today on the back of a half-century by opener Shamyl Hussain.

The left-handed batter made 57 not out off 44 balls, hitting nine fours, to help his side overhaul the 123-run target at the 15.2 overs mark. This was Pakistan Shaheens’ second game in the 2023 Top End T20 Series. Shamyl laid a solid foundation for the run chase with a 66-run stand with Dera Murad Jamali-born Basit Ali, who struck two fours and a six in his 27-ball 28, before adding the

remaining runs with captain Rohail Nazir, who made 39 not out at a sparkling rate of 185. The wicketkeeper-batter smashed four fours and a six.

Pakistan Shaheens had opted to bowl after Rohail called correctly at the toss and put up a disciplined show with the ball. Faisal Akram, the left-arm unorthodox, returned two for 22 and Sajjad Ali and Arafat Minhaj picked up a wicket each as ACT Comets managed 122 for seven.

Nicholas Broes top-scored with 37 off 34 (two fours), Zak Keogh made 23 off 31 and Hanno Jacobs made 20 off 17.

### Over 2.5 mln kids to be vaccinated... Continued from page 1

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

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

He particularly mentioned that the presence of polio virus in Afghanistan

is a big challenge for Balochistan, therefore, the district administrations of Chamam, Killa Abdullah and Pishin have to demonstrate special interest in this regard.

The Secretary Health, Asfandyar Kakar, Additional Secretary Home, Inamul Haq Mandokhail, Commissioner Quetta, Sohailur Rehman Baloch, Provincial Coordinator EOC, Syed Zahid Shah, DIG Police Operation, representatives of different organizations including UNICEF, WHO and others were in attendance.

The Coordinator EOC briefed the meeting about the anti-polio campaign being launched from August 1 in the province. It was vowed to make the campaign great success.



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

### Pakistan, China signs 6... Continued from page 1

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 Co-operation 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 the Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China Mr. Cong Liang and federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal.

The other MoUs include Establishing an Expert Exchange Mechanism within the Framework of the CPEC. The MoU aimed to establish an expert exchange mechanism between the Ministry of Planning, Development of Special Initiatives, and NDRC of China, to facilitate knowledge sharing between the two governments.

The objective was to obtain intellectual support and consultation for China-Pakistan capacity-building cooperation and conduct in-depth exchanges of Chinese experts with the Pakistani government and enterprises by sharing China’s experience, contributing Chinese solutions and helping Pakistan meet international standards more timely and efficiently.

This MoU was also signed by Mr. Cong Liang, Vice Chairman of the NDRC, and Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives.

The MoU on Protocol of phytosanitary requirements for Export of Dried Chillies from Pakistan to China was also signed. The protocol outlined the phytosanitary requirements for the export of dried chillies from Pakistan to China.

## Court again summons PTI chief for recording statement in Toshakhana case

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

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

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

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

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

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

The lawyer said they had challenged the trial

court’s decisions before the high court and his client required some time before recording his statement under Section-342.

The counsel for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Amjad Pervaiz, said five appeals were pending with the high court, which only aimed at getting a stay order against the trial. The accused had requested a stay order to the top court but his case was dismissed, he said, adding the trial court could continue the proceedings.

The lawyer said that for the first time an objection had been raised against the sessions court after the indictment. They should approach the high court and prove that the indictment was wrong, he added.

The court adjourned the case till Tuesday.

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The undersigned invites sealed Percentage rate tenders based on composite schedule of rates 2018 Government of Balochistan from interested contractor/firms for the works mentioned below :- **Tender Fee deposited in head of account C02725-02 through Bank in NBP, Earnest Money 2% of E/ Cost offered Rate in Shape of Call Deposit for each work. Tender Fee Rs.1500/- for S.No. 1 to 41, Rs.3000/- for S.No.42 & 44 and Rs. 2000/- for S.No. 43. Date of Completion 30-06-2024 for each work**

S. No.	Name of scheme	Qty	E/ Cost
1.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Allah Bakhsh Sumalini Korrak Gresha Nal Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345393	1 Job	2.883 M
2.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Ejaz Gresha Nal Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345423	1 Job	2.883 M
3.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Marhoom Haji Ahmed Gresha Nal Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345433	1 Job	2.883 M
4.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Marhoom Abdul Sattar Sunny Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345443	1 Job	2.883 M
5.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Ghulam Qadir Sunny Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345463	1 Job	2.883 M
6.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Shaheed Abdul Haq Baloch Korak Shumaili Baghbana Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345473	1 Job	2.883 M
7.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Rehan Garba Zeedi Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345483	1 Job	2.883 M
8.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Shams-ul-Mulk Shaheed Ali Akbar Zedi Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345513	1 Job	2.883 M
9.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Haji Ibrahim Khiazai Ferozabad Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345523	1 Job	2.883 M
10.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Usman Mardoqi Ferozabad Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345533	1 Job	2.883 M
11.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Yaqoob Ferozabad Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345543	1 Job	2.883 M
12.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Haji Raees Tufail Kanak Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345553	1 Job	2.883 M
13.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Senkuri Gresha Nal Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345563	1 Job	2.883 M
14.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Noor Miraj Asad Abad Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345623	1 Job	2.883 M
15.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Faheem Zahid Abad Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345633	1 Job	2.883 M
16.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Yousaf Krim Sunny Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345643	1 Job	2.883 M
17.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Sajid Shoaib Dari Form Zehri Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345653	1 Job	2.883 M
18.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Mubeen Zehri Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345663	1 Job	2.883 M
19.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Kheer Dhori Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345673	1 Job	2.883 M
20.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Juma Khan Khand-2 Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345703	1 Job	2.883 M
21.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Manzoor Khairawa Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345713	1 Job	2.883 M
22.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Rafiq Mujahid Balina Kattan Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345723	1 Job	2.883 M
23.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Habib Seyoposh Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345733	1 Job	2.883 M
24.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Habib Shah Baghbana Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345743	1 Job	2.883 M
25.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Din Muhammad Ferozabad Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345753	1 Job	2.883 M
26.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Munir Ahmed Gungowo Ferozabad Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345763	1 Job	2.883 M
27.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Haji Hayat Ferozabad Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345773	1 Job	2.883 M
28.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Muhammad Qalandrani Passi Jhur Near Kapassi Wadh Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345783	1 Job	2.883 M
29.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Nabi Waris Kun Zamburi Wadh Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345793	1 Job	2.883 M
30.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Muhammad Arshad Aziz Abad Zedi Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345803	1 Job	2.883 M
31.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Rehmatullah Rind Muhammad Khan Baghbana Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345813	1 Job	2.883 M
32.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Muhammad Hanif S/O Muhammad Amin Mehandar Wadh Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345823	1 Job	2.883 M
33.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Ail Muhammad Lehri Kaka Heer Wadh Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345833	1 Job	2.883 M
34.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Mir Orangaib Thrare Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345843	1 Job	2.883 M
35.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Haji Abdullah Qalandrani Tootak Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345853	1 Job	2.883 M
36.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Muhammad Ashraf Tootak Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345863	1 Job	2.883 M
37.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Aza Baki Aspine Bichar Wadh Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345873	1 Job	2.883 M
38.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Muhammad Bus S/O Murad Muhammad Rind Saroona Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345883	1 Job	2.883 M
39.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Muhammad Usman Langho Bhandu Wadh Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345893	1 Job	2.883 M
40.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Muhammad Umar S/O Ahmed Toori Saroona Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345903	1 Job	2.883 M
41.	S/ of Solar System for Killi Mehboob Ali Shahzai Tuk Wadh Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345913	1 Job	2.883 M
42.	S/ of HDPE Pipes for Various WSS's in District Khuzdar Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345923	1 Job	5.633 M
43.	S/ of HDPE Pipes for Different Area of Tehsil Wadh Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345933	1 Job	2.810 M
44.	Construction of 20 Nos Surface water Tank Wadh Under SDG's Program 2023-24 District Khuzdar. TSE-232407345943	1 Job	12.039 M

Procurement shall be made the Balochistan Public Procurement Rule 2014. **ELIGIBILITY:** The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant Category and registration with tax authority's i.e (NTN, sales tax & BTA Department) where applicable. Three years relevant work experience. Turn over of last three years. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single stage One envelope. **BID SECURITY:-** The bid must accompany bid security in shape of Call Deposit of amount specified above in the name of the undersigned form a scheduled bank. **TENDER DOCUMENTS:-** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment (Non Refundable) Bidding Documents fee amount mentioned above against each work through green challan under head C02725-02 Receipt the NIT and Bidding documents can also be downloaded from BPPRA website. **ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:** Tender documents issued form the date of publication of NIT **LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION:-** The tender must be submitted latest by 16.08.2023 at 11:00 AM. **TENDER OPENING:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of undersigned at 12:00 PM. **Place Of Issuance and Submission will be:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of undersigned at 12:00 PM. **Address:** Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division at Khuzdar. Phone No.0848412523, Fax No.0848412523 & Email. phedudr@gmail.com. **Bid Validity Period:-** 90 days. **Note:-** Only the Original contractor/firm are allowed to participate in the tender with original CNIC. Agent/representative will be not allowed. The undersigned reserve the right to reject all or any bids with out assignment of any reason thereof, it may be noted that **(Pay Order and Bank Draft will not be accepted/entertained)** and firm's complete title/name should be written on the call deposit. other terms & Condition seen/obtain in the Office of the undersigned in office hours.

Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Division Khuzdar.

PRQ No.250/31-07-2023

www.dpp.gov.pk @dpp.gov.pk dpp.gov.pk @dppgovbalochistan

### GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

#### CORRIGENDUM

The tenders were published in various daily newspapers and PPRA website for the work titled “Development Scheme in Kalat, Surab, Mastung District Package I, II, and III” vide this office letter No.EE.CCD-1/AB/Tender Notice/752 & 753 dated 12-07-2023. The tender date was mentioned in the advertisement as 2<sup>nd</sup> schedule 03-08-2023 and 3<sup>rd</sup> schedule 08-08-2023, respectively instead of which may be read as for 2<sup>nd</sup> schedule 16-08-2023, and 3<sup>rd</sup> schedule as 24-08-2023.

All other terms and conditions, published in the newspapers and PPRA website, will remain the same.

Executive Engineer Central Civil Division No-1 PAK PWD, Quetta PID(Q)46/23

## Bajaur suicide attack draws condemnation from across Muslim world

ISLAMABAD (APP): The suicide attack that took place in Bajaur on Sunday, which killed around 44 people and left over 200 injured, has drawn strong condemnations from across the Muslim world.

The leadership of the Muslim nations as well as the heads of the Muslim world bodies condemned the heinous crime and sympathized with the bereaved families. At least 44 people were killed in a suicide blast at a Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) workers' convention in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Bajaur district on Sunday. The explosion occurred when more than 400 JUI-F members and supporters gathered under a tent in the town of Khar, near the border with Afghanistan.

Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Hissein Brahimi, in a statement, condemned the explosion in the strongest terms.

He offered his sincere condolences to the victims' families and to the government and people of Pakistan wishing a speedy recovery to the injured.

The secretary-general reaffirmed the OIC's solidarity with Pakistan in its efforts to combat extrem-

ism and terrorism.

In a statement, the Saudi Foreign Ministry denounced the attack and reaffirmed the Kingdom's rejection of violence and terrorism anywhere in the world, expressing that the Kingdom stood in full solidarity with Pakistan and its people.

The ministry offered condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims, the government, and the people of Pakistan, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf Jassim bin Muhammed Al-Budaiwi, also condemned the bombing and said that the position of the Cooperation Council was firm.

He said the Council rejected all forms of violence, extremism, and terrorism, which aimed to destabilize security and stability and were inconsistent with human values and principles.

Similarly, in a statement, the UAE foreign ministry also strongly condemned the terrorist attack and reiterated its permanent rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism aimed at undermining secu-

city and stability in contravention of human values and principles.

The UAE ministry also expressed its sincere condolences and sympathy to the Pakistani government and people.

The State of Qatar also expressed its strong condemnation and denunciation of the explosion.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated Qatar's firm position on rejecting violence and terrorism, regardless of the motives and reasons.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani strongly condemned the attack and offered condolences on behalf of the government and the people of Iran to the government and the people of Pakistan.

Besides Kuwait, the state of Egypt also condemned the bombing and "renewed its firm stance toward its categorical rejection of all forms of violence."

"Egypt, government and people, expressed their sincere condolences and sympathy to the government and people of brotherly Pakistan in this painful affliction, and to the families of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery for all the injured."



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday warmly welcomed Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng on behalf of Pakistan People's Party to participate in the 10th anniversary celebrations of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

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

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

The minister accorded the credit of the CPEC as a proud project to President Xi Jinping and former President Asif Ali Zardari. Asif Ali Zardari made his first diplomatic visit to China after assuming the office of President to further strengthen the bilateral relations established by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, she said.

"He (Asif Ali Zardari) visited China four times in

the first year (of his tenure). He visited China several times during his tenure as President. Even after leaving the presidency, he visited China along with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to enhance the progress of CPEC, which is why the Chinese government named him (Zardari) the founder of CPEC," Senator Sherry Rehman said.

She regretted that the CPEC suffered a slowdown due to the previous incompetent government.

"However, we are keen to move forward with this game-changer project. Pak-China Friendship Long Live," Senator Rehman added.



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

## Departments asked to hold flood damage assessment, gather accurate data

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

The Chairman NDMA presided Special National Emergencies Operations Centre (NEOC) session with key stakeholders on the current monsoon situation. The session was attended by representatives of Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Federal Flood Commission (FFC), Provincial, State and Gilgit Baltistan disaster management authorities (PDMAs, SDMA, GBDMA respectively), Federal Flood Division (FFD), Space and Upper Atmosphere Re-

search Commission (SUPARO), Tarbela and Mangla Dam Management, a news release said.

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

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

The PDMAs briefed about the current situation in the respective provinces

and highlighted the rescue and relief work carried out during the recent spell.

The FFD reported that no high flood situation is expected in any major rivers in the coming week. However, a fresh spell of moderate intensity with heavy rainfall at scattered places is expected from August 5 to 7.

The Mangla and Tarbela Dam management briefed that the dams were filled at 85% and 86% of their capacity respectively.

The Chairman NDMA also instructed PDMAs, GBDMA and SDMA to conduct mock exercises and increase awareness among the masses about the remedial measures to be taken during the season and to monitor the changing situation vigilantly.

## Mustafa Hyder says: Pak-China friendship deeper than ocean

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute Sayed Mustafa Hyder Monday said that relations between Pakistan and China had remained deeper than the ocean over the years and the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would prove to be a milestone in promoting regional economic integration.

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

news channel.

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

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

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

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

## Alert issued to PIMS admin due to Bajaur bomb blast

ISLAMABAD (Online): Alert has also been issued to PIMS administration due to Bajaur bomb blast.

Executive Director PIMS Dr Imran Sakandar said that complete treatment facilities will be provided timely in case of bringing the injured of Bajaur bomb blast in PIMS hospital.

Doctors and Paramedical staff are on alert in PIMS Hospital on directives of Health Minister.

All steps are completed in case of bringing injured to PIMS Hospital.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the other hand, head of medical board said

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

Dr Judat Saleem said that physiotherapy of Rizwana has started.

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

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

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

It is pertinent to say that Rizwana belongs to Sargodha.

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

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

The girl was badly injured by violence.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Mirza Muhammad Afridi presenting souvenir to President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Mr. Duarte Pacheco at Parliament House.

## Hassan reviews Lahore's development projects

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

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

Khawaja Hassan stressed the need for early completion of all development projects, as people of Lahore were still waiting for relief from relevant departments, saying that the government wanted to bring comfort and facilitation in the lives of people through their public friendly projects.

The coordinator said

that despite difficult circumstances, the government was providing resources worth billions of rupees to improve the quality of life to people whereas comprehensive reforms were being introduced for rapid development of the province. Directing the MCL officials, he said that street-lights on the main roads of the city should be kept on continuously at night and maintenance work should be done simultaneously. He directed WASA to complete its ongoing pipeline repairing projects within a stipulated time period, saying that citizens were facing hardships due to digging of roads. He said the department should complete repair work at the earliest. He appreciated the PHA for maintaining the beauty of the provincial capital.

He directed all departments concerned to maintain a close contact with the public representative of the area regarding development projects.



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

## Ishaq Dar will be Chairman Committee re-constituted on Dev. and Management matters Hazrat Bari Mazar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Committee established for the development and administrative affairs of Hazrat Bari Imam Mazar has been reconstituted.

Interior Ministry has issued notification of reconstitution of Management Committee.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar will be Chairman of Hazrat Bari Imam Management Committee.

General retired Mohammad Afzal Janjua is included in private members.

Hanif Abbasi, Raja Sarfaraz Akram and Sohail Iqbal have also been appointed as Committee Members.

Gohar Zahid Malik, Inaam Rubani, Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Mian Mohammad Hanif have also been included as members in Committee.

Federal interior Secretary, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Chairman CDA and DC Islamabad are also part of Committee.

## TikTok launches latest feature of text posts to empower users

ISLAMABAD (APP): TikTok, the leading destination for short videos, has announced the launch of text posts to empower creators by providing them exciting opportunities for self-expression.

With text posts, TikTok is expanding the boundaries of content creation, offering its vibrant community another innovative way to showcase their stories, poems, recipes, and other written content, said a news release on Monday.

TikTok is always looking to empower its creators and community with innovative tools that inspire self-expression.

TikTok's commitment to nurturing creativity in all its forms has led to a diverse array of content formats, including videos, photos, Duets, and Stitch.

The introduction of text posts adds yet another dimension to the content options, enabling creators to effortlessly share their written brilliance and making it even easier to inspire and captivate audiences.

On the Camera page, users now have the choice of three options: photo, video, and text. Opting for text opens the text creation page, where creators can pen their thoughts and ideas in a user-friendly interface. Once on the Post page, users will find a suite of familiar customization options.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying flags and other 14th August related stuff to attract customers at Islamabad Expressway.

## HEC announces Phase-10 of Peridot Research Program

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

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

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

The objective of this program is to develop new scientific and technological cooperation between

French and Pakistani higher education institutions/research laboratories by supporting the mobility of researchers from both sides. The Program, launched in 2014, proceeded its 9 phases till 2022. In last 9th phase Three partnerships have been approved.

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

This mobility grant is focused on supporting research in any of the identified priority areas/disciplines, including Sustainable Energy, Environment and Climate change, Agriculture, Food Security and Health, Humanities & social sciences.

It is to worthy mention here that projects on social challenges of environmental issues shall be strongly encouraged.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): In the budget of attached departments 1500 Million rupees allocated for National Poverty Graduation Programme, 419 Million Rupees for Sehat Tahafuz Programme, 80,870 Million Rupees for Social Protection Delivery Unit, 471,683 Million Rupees for Benazir Income Support Program and around 7,674.620 Million Rupees has been allocated for Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, officials of Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety apprised to Senate body on Monday.

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

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

The Chairman NDMA presided Special National Emergencies Operations Centre (NEOC) session with key stakeholders on the current monsoon situation. The session was attended by representatives of Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Federal Flood Commission (FFC), Provincial, State and Gilgit Baltistan disaster management authorities (PDMAs, SDMA, GBDMA respectively), Federal Flood Division (FFD), Space and Upper Atmosphere Re-

## SSP Rank conferring ceremony held

ISLAMABAD (Online): A grand rank ceremony was held in the honor of Senior Superintendent of Police of Islamabad Police, Captain (Rtd) Syed Zeeshan Haider, who was promoted to a new position at the Central Police Office Islamabad.

City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan along with CPO Headquarters Awais Ahmed conferred the ranks of the newly promoted SP Zeeshan Haider as Senior Superintendent of Police during the ceremony.

He congratulated him and expressed good wishes, he said that the departmental development and increase in rank in the police service actually reflects the increase in responsibilities.

## Chairman PTI moves SC seeking staying trial in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI has challenged Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision in Supreme Court (SC) in Toshakhana case. Chairman PTI has filed appeal plea seeking SC order to stay the proceedings, of recording his statement under Section 342 in the case, which was initiated after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) found him guilty of not declaring the gifts, he had retained from the state depository, in his asset declarations.

The SC through the appeal plea has been prayed to stay trial in Toshakhana case till the final decision of high court

on jurisdiction of trial court.

The SC has been requested it is must to decide about the court's jurisdiction first in the light of SC decision. IHC has not barred trial court from proceedings. The hearing in trial court will be completed if the stay order is not granted. The appeals filed in high court will become in-fructuous after completion of trial. High court should have issued order regarding acceptance or rejection of stay order.

The petitioner has requested SC to admit for hearing appeal plea against IHC order. Trial court be barred from further proceeding in the matter.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery is being used to expand lanes for smooth traffic on Islamabad Expressway.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

Tuesday August 01, 2023

## Bajaur bombing

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

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

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

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

This does not sit well with a host of militant organisations like the TTP, the IS-K and Al Qaeda, which have competed with democratic parties for control of the Pakhtun belt, particularly the tribal belts of KP and Balochistan. These groups, in the past, targeted and decimated the ANP and Qaumi Watan Party for the same reason.

The JUI-F, however, is an even bigger problem for them as it seeks a path to Islamic rule through the ballot box, while the militants seek the same through 'jihad' and to rule by the sword.

In the past, attacking political gatherings has had a chilling effect on the political activities of targeted parties and eventually pushed some of them out of the picture. With the country gearing up for elections, such terrorist outfits may seek to reassert their presence with fear tactics.

A UNSC report has only recently warned of the possibility of the TTP and Al Qaeda joining forces to expand their influence in South Asia. The occurrence of such incidents makes the Pakistani security apparatus look weak; the National Action Plan seems to have been ineffective in putting a stop to violent incidents.

The Taliban regime next door is also proving to be a problem. With the challenges growing, the national security apparatus cannot afford to take its eyes off the ball. However, of late, it seems to be taking too much on its plate. The fact is, criticism is sure to follow if its core responsibilities remain unfulfilled.



**Maleeha Lodhi**

The world is at an inflection point with mounting geopolitical tensions and global economic volatility contributing to a fraught and unstable situation. Multilateralism is facing growing challenges in an increasingly fragmented international system. The resurgence of East-West tensions, Ukraine war and intensifying US-China confrontation have further shrunk the space for multilateral cooperation. Multilateralism though has been in retreat for well over a decade now.

Strong headwinds unleashed by competing crises are making the future outlook a troubled one.

Climate change has emerged as among the present era's greatest risks. Yet a deeply divided world is increasingly falling short

of addressing multiple, interconnected challenges that are consequential for all countries.

It is clearly time for the international community to take stock and consider how to forge agreement on a global framework to address common challenges. A major initiative to do that is planned at the UN Summit of the Future called by Secretary General (SG) António Guterres and endorsed by all member states of the world body.

This summit, scheduled for September 2024, will seek to evolve a consensus on what a shared future should be and identify the means to achieve it. Guterres has described the summit as a "once in a generation opportunity" to strengthen multilateralism, renew the commitment to core principles and adopt an action-oriented 'Pact for the Future', which will set out concrete responses to global challenges. This is expected to emerge from intergovernmental negotiations ahead of the summit.

As part of the preparatory process for these deliberations, Guterres has issued nine policy briefs on key issues which will be discussed by UN member states. A New Agenda for Peace, the policy paper unveiled earlier this month, focuses on issues of peace and security. This offers twelve specific proposals in five priority areas. In his introduction to the report and op-eds he recently authored, the SG states that with the post-Cold War period over, the world is moving towards a new global order with multipolarity as a defining feature. Never before have countries had to confront so many cross-boundary sources of instability and insecurity. Peace remains elusive as conflicts continue across the world while geostrategic competition is engendering geoeconomic fragmentation.

According to Guterres, all of this makes international cooperation an imperative in order to avoid more human suffering. This is especially so when disquiet is growing among people across the world that governments and international organisations are failing to deliver for them. He calls for a "new multilateralism" which goes beyond the narrow security concerns of countries, and

## UN's new agenda for peace

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social cohesion, create links between sustainable development, climate action and peace, ensure meaningful participation of women and fully respect all dimensions of human rights. This is an ambitious goal given the uneven record among developing countries on this account.

The third area in the report concerns UN peacekeeping. It proposes updating peacekeeping operations to adjust to changing conflict environments, especially challenges posed by unresolved conflicts where there is no peace to keep.

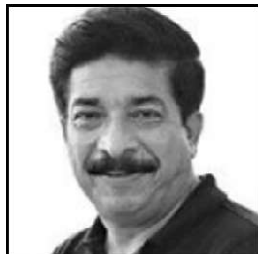
The actions proposed include avoiding unrealistic mandates for peacekeeping missions, having more integrated operations and recommitting to reform in this area—all welcome and implementable suggestions. They are directly relevant for Pakistan, which has been among the world's top troop contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions for over six decades. Since 1960, over 200,000 Pakistani service men and women have served in 46 UN missions in 26 countries around the

world. Currently, over 4,300 service personnel are deployed in 10 missions.

The fourth priority focuses on prevention of the weaponisation of emerging domains and technologies and promoting "responsible innovation". This calls for measures to address threats posed by new technologies, including artificial intelligence, and urges a prohibition on lethal autonomous weapons systems. There can be no disagreement with the contention that "machines with the power and discretion to take lives without human involvement are morally repugnant and politically unacceptable and should be prohibited by international law".

The last priority action area recommends building a stronger collective security machinery, including reform of the Security Council, General Assembly and the UN's disarmament agency. The document calls for expediting negotiations for Council reform to make it more "just and representative" and democratise its working methods. -- Courtesy Dawn

## A high-stakes US election



**Dr Imran Khalid**

The American political landscape has suddenly been taken over by calls for 'investigations' on both sides of the divide. While Donald Trump awaits a looming third indictment, US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has also raised alarm bells for the possibility of US President Biden's impeachment over conjectural allegations of financial impropriety. This tempest of legal entanglements portends stormy days ahead. Although McCarthy has yet to overtly endorse Donald Trump's bid for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, keen observers detect a strategic manoeuvre in his recent actions.

Amidst mounting GOP pressure to display allegiance to the former US president, McCarthy has deftly broached the subject,

ostensibly gauging the political winds and seeking to assuage the party faithful. The upcoming 2024 presidential contest remains awash with intrigue and calculations as contenders vie for the mantle of Republican leadership. "We've only followed where the information has taken us. But this is rising to the level of impeachment inquiry, which provides Congress the strongest power to get the rest of the knowledge and information needed," said McCarthy in his interview given to FOX News.

McCarthy's concise remarks bore an intentional tone, distinct from mere casual banter. In a striking turn, McCarthy invoked the accounts of two IRS whistleblowers, who he claimed revealed a sluggish pace in probing Hunter Biden's alleged tax infractions. McCarthy also drew attention to House GOP investigations, which purportedly unveiled a trail of foreign funds coursing through shell companies to benefit the Biden family and associates to the tune of millions. With these charges resurfacing in the political arena, the spectre of controversy surrounding the Biden family gains

fresh momentum. In the interview, McCarthy underscored that an impeachment inquiry could provide Congress with the means to ascertain the truth although he conceded that their investigations have yet to yield evidence of any misconduct. The initiation of such an inquiry would mark the initial stride towards possibly presenting articles of impeachment. The duration of the probe remains at the discretion of the House, possibly extending its ramifications into the fervour of the presidential campaign season.

A pivotal juncture certainly awaits in American politics, laden with implications that could reverberate far beyond the political realm. Interestingly, during the interview, McCarthy categorically refuted the reports suggesting that he might explore House votes to expunge Trump's twin impeachments as a gesture of solidarity.

He also refrained from specifying any timetable for initiating an impeachment inquiry into Biden and asserted that he had not engaged in discussions with Trump on the matter. Additionally, when pressed,

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## On two athletes



**Muna Khan**

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

That uncertainty is felt in Mexico too. Border police last year detained at least 744,000 Mexicans trying to enter the US, the highest number since 2008. They are leaving due to rising inflation and violence. Migrants are a cornerstone of the Mexican economy, and according to the Economist in April, Mexico receives more remittances than China; India is the largest beneficiary.

But like so many migrants' stories, Mexicans risk death in their attempt to leave. Incidentally, many migrants come to Mexico, some with the hope of crossing the border into the US. Afghans were the seventh highest nationality to make Mexico's top 10 list of migrants, according to the country's refugee agency COMAR.

At least 50,000 migrants "are known to have

died" worldwide since 2014, according to the Missing Migrants Project by the International Organisation of Migration in 2022. It said "the nationality for over 30,000 people is unknown ... which means that more than 60 per cent of those who die on migratory routes remain unidentified". Imagine how devastating it is for the families left behind. To say goodbye to someone in the hope that they'll make it safe, never having to return to a country that just doesn't have anything promising to offer. Unless you're wealthy and male.

Earlier in March, Pakistani hockey and football player Shahida Raza — only 27 — died in a shipwreck off the coast of Italy. She made the dangerous journey because she wanted to get treatment for her three-year-old son, who is partially paralysed and cannot be adequately treated in Pakistan, according to an interview her family gave to the BBC after her death.

I was reminded of Raza while reading about Sachini Perera, the 24-year-old Sri Lankan athlete known as the "[pole] vaulting queen" who has been working as a maid in Dubai since July last year. She put her "athletic dreams on hold", she told The National recently, so she could earn and care for her mother who is partially paralysed. She sends most of her salary back home to pay for her mother's treatment but has not given up on her dream. "I want to be the one girl from Sri Lanka who wins an international medal for the pole vault," she said. Sri Lankans were upset to hear of her situation and blamed the authorities for not retaining sporting talent. Sri Lanka's consul general told The National they were making efforts to find her a sports-related job in the emirate.

I was struck by how

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

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

I'm sure you're also hearing about Pakistanis leaving the country — studying abroad, migrating to Canada or wherever will take our fourth worst passport, getting jobs in the GCC, buying properties to get citizenship in Portugal. Or taking the illegal route. I wonder if we'll get the figure for the exodus from Pakistan, though we'll never know about the undocumented who hand their lives over to agents promising them safe passage. Journalist Waqas Ahmed reported last year that 765,000 people left Pakistan in 2022, triple the number from the year before.

I do not blame them. Everyone knows what can be done to arrest the exodus and everyone knows nothing will be done.

Maybe the prime minister will order an inquiry into it. Politicians and their patrons are too busy keeping one man out of the election. And by the time they succeed, I wonder if anyone will be left to cast their vote. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Plastic pollution



**Zarrar Khuuro**

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

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

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

Outrage on a trending topic translates into views and clicks (and possibly votes) which in turn translate into hard, cold cash. The bigger the topic, the greater the cash flow and given that Barbie has grossed more than \$400 million worldwide, there's a lot of residual outrage to cash in on.

On the flip side, our more 'progressive' elements also seem to copy-paste America's unique

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

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

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

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

## Minister IT inaugurates Digital Lab in Nazimabad

KARACHI (Online): Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul-Haq along with Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Convenor MQM Pakistan inaugurated Digital IT lab in Rashid Minhas Govt school for Boys and Girls at Nazimabad No 1, Karachi on Monday.

Addressing the occasion, the chief guest of the event Convenor MQM Pakistan Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui highlighted the importance of Karachi being the financial hub has a great significance and providing its youth 15 digital courses free of cost with the state of art facilities will go a long way towards the betterment of lives of people of Nazimabad and then country.

Siddiqui said that today's fast pace has changed everything in the world. Everything changed except the one who did not intend to change himself, the nations who do not intend to change themselves God does not promise to change them. In this unfortunate province of Sindh, quota system was imposed to block the way of education, you people are now growing up in this era where politics will not be able to block the way of education? He said that hundreds of the world's biggest companies have made ability and skills the standard by eliminating the degree requirement, and we are still running after degrees, and we have completely ignored skills and abilities.

In his address Federal Minister for IT & Telecom

Syed Amin Ul-Haq said that this is the first time a Digital IT lab is formed at government school in Pakistan. Our aim is to make underprivileged children equally efficient and productive for the country, besides empowering them to live quality life in collaboration with Ignite. "The event marked the official launch of the Digital IT lab, a program aimed at providing free IT education training in the form of content writing, freelancing and other 15 courses free of cost. The lab is equipped with all modern gadgets and facilities required for the market driven courses. This would prove a great help in grooming the underprivileged children of this school consisting of 300 plus students" he added.



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

## 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 Muiullah Khan Marwat, Hamid Shah and Dr. Riaz Anwar, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur.

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.

## 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.

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.

Fond of chicken biryani and Chapli Kabab, Ejaz Ahmad had told his younger brother on the phone that he was attending JUIF public meeting with friends and kept his favourite dish in the refrigerator before his phone call was disconnected.

"The entire family rushed to Dubai Mor after hearing about a huge blast at JUIF convention. Shahid Khan, a childhood friend of Ejaz informed us at the blast site that Ejaz was critically injured and was shifted to hospital in ambulance in a precarious condition and prayed for his safety," 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.



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

## Shazia Marri visits Benazir Nashunua center in Jam Nawaz

SANGHAR (APP): Federal Minister for poverty alleviation and social safety Shazia Ataa Marri on Monday visited Benazir Nashunua center in Jam Nawaz Ah.

Talking to the Media Federal Minister said that Pakistan People's Party has always initiated the best welfare programmes for public.

She said in Benazir Nashunua center with the collaboration of Benazir Income Support Programme and world food programme balanced food intake was being provided to pregnant as well as breastfeeding women facing malnutrition and children up to 2 years old which put positive impacts on both mother and child.

She said that the Government was making sincere efforts for the rehabilitation of flood-hit people and no negligence will be tolerated in this regard.

She said that in order to register women living below poverty line a dynamic survey had been started in which destitute women would be included.

The Deputy Commissioner Sanghar Muhammad Ishaq Gaad, Representative of World Bank Melsan Govan and Zainab District Health Officer Dr. Faiz Muhammad Marri, Regional Director PPHI Fida Hussain Ishaari, World Programme officer Salma and other officers were also present on the occasion.

## Minister visits PIC, reviews medical facilities

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

Chairman Board of Management Dr Farqad Alamgir also accompanied him. He asked patients about the medical facilities being provided to them.

Executive Director PIC Prof. Dr. Ahmed Nauman and Medical Superintendent Dr. Muhammad Tahir briefed the caretaker minister about the specialised health facility.

The minister said that medical facilities were being reviewed by visiting various government hospitals. Measures were being taken for providing better facilities to the patients at the PIC Lahore. Primary angioplasty was being carried out successfully in all cardiology hospitals of Punjab. Every patient, who comes to the Punjab Institute of Cardiology, was important to the staff, he assured.

## 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. He asked the deputy commissioners to pay special attention to improve the health and education sectors in districts. The chief secretary appreciated Deputy Commissioner Khanewal Waseem Hamid Sindhur for getting ISO certification for DHQ hospital. He ordered that the deputy commissioners and assistant commissioners as heads of district and tehsil health councils should perform their duties in an active manner and ensure 100 per cent attendance of doctors.

## 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. In a bid to save her, one by one all four siblings drowned and were swept away by the mighty waters of River Indus.

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

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

The petitioner has taken the plea in the

petition Islamic University Bahawalpur is an educational institution wherein the scandal of obscene videos has surfaced. Chief security officer of the university was arrested in obscene videos scandal.

It has been prayed in the petition that the matter is very sensitive, therefore, the court should order to constitute JC or tribunal to inquire into the matter. The court itself should monitor the inquiry of this scandal.

## Provincial Minister visits Metro Bus Service to review facility services

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Livestock, Transport, Mines and Minerals Punjab, Ibrahim Murad here on Monday visited Metro Bus Service to review services and facilities being offered to the people.

The Minister inspected Metro Command and Control Rawalpindi and reviewed different matters in detail.

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

service is a valuable national asset. The Metro bus service which is of the world class, is the best travelling facility for the citizens, he said adding, the government is providing subsidy on Metro bus service to provide affordable travelling facility to the people.

The metro bus service also provided employment opportunities to the people, Ibrahim Murad said.

The command and control room should further be improved to ensure public convenience, he added.

In the metro bus project, where the renovation is required, it should be completed, he instructed the authorities.

## 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.

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 that, if given the opportunity, he would prioritize building these essential facilities to address the community's needs. Expressing gratitude to the people of Tanawal for their support and respect, the minister reflected on the benefits bestowed upon the region in 2008 and 2013, underscoring the government's commitment to continued progress.

In anticipation of the upcoming elections, Murtaza Javed Abbasi made promises to fulfill all commitments, emphasizing his dedication to improving facilities and infrastructure in the mentioned areas.

Moreover, the minister criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for imposing restrictions on gas meters.

## 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. Talking to APP, PTV senior producer Agha Qaiser said that Mirza Adeb was a legendary personality who wrote plays and short-stories in Urdu and Punjabi language which won him six prizes and awards from the Pakistan Writers' Guild. It may be mentioned here that Adeb was awarded the Presidential Award for playwriting in 1969, Pride of Performance.



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

## GCU to recreate its famous clock tower on New Campus

LAHORE (Online): The Government College University Lahore (GCU) is set to recreate its iconic gothic-style clock tower on the new campus located in Kala Shah Kaku.

Federal Education Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain and Vice-Chancellor Professor Asghar Zaidi on Monday laid the foundation stone of the Tower Complex during a graceful ceremony at the new campus administration block.

During the event, the Federal Education Minister expressed his deep emotional attachment to his alma mater, Government College, and acknowledged the achievements of fellow alumni in various fields. He also praised the university's contribution to the country's development and emphasized the importance of providing quality education and skills to the youth. In addition to launching the construction of the clock tower, the Federal Minister distributed laptops to GCU students as part of the Prime Minister Youth Laptop Scheme, showcasing the government's commitment to supporting students' education and digital empowerment.

## Man killed, son injured in day broad light killing in Hazro

ATTOCK (APP): A man was shot dead while his son received critical bullet injuries in a day broad light assassination incident at busy Fawara Chowk in Hazro town of Attock on Monday, police sources said. It added that 42 years old Majeed Khan along with his 21 years old Adil Khan going in his car when reached Fawara chowk-the main and busiest business centre of the town, two persons riding on a motorcycle intercepted them and showered bullets over them with pistols. Resultantly Majeed died on the spot while his son was injured critically.



GILGIT: In the collaboration of EPIC Gilgit-Baltistan, KIU, UOB, and University of Mailaan Evk 2 CNR successfully installed the Automate Weather Station in Askoli, Urdas and Candodia.

## TEVTA to start hospitality courses across province

LAHORE (APP): Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Chairperson and Secretary Industries Ehsan Bhatta announced on Monday that hospitality courses would be started across the Punjab province while keeping in mind the demand

of job opportunities in the sector. He was addressing a meeting of officials at TEVTA secretariat, here on Monday. He said that initially the courses of culinary arts, housekeeping and front office would be started in major cities of province including Lahore.



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

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

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

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

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

infrastructure under CPEC besides reining in energy crisis.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

He said that increase in electricity tariff had badly hit the masses especially the white-collar class. He said that North

Waziristan was rich in uranium and other precious metals, and “we must explore it to meet our financial needs and make Pakistan self-reliant instead of depending on the IMF”. “We must depend upon our own resources instead of begging for foreign loans”, he added. He cited the example of Thar Coal mine and said that similarly we must exploit other mineral resources to generate funds for the national development.

Responding to a question, he dispelled the impression that elite class was enjoying from the loans while the masses were being crushed under the price spiral.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Division, Dr. Musadik Malik addressing a press conference at PID Media Center.

## PAAPAM delegation to visit Tehran from Aug 13

LAHORE (INP): A high-level delegation of Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) comprising 20 members is visiting Tehran from 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023 on the invitation of the Iranian government.

Led by PAAPAM former chairman Abdur Razzaq Gauhar and sitting Chairman of the Pakistan Engineering Goods Council, the delegation will attend the Tehran Auto Show from 13-15 and meet various industrial and business communities and cognoscente. The Chairman Pak Iran Business Council, Najam Ul Hassan Jawa, will also accompany the delegation. Pakistan’s mission in Tehran would facilitate the delegation to create opportunities for bilateral trade.

The SVC PAAPAM Usman Aslam Malik looked optimistic that barter trade in our neighboring countries was a big step toward a better tomorrow. He was confident that this consortium would soon start trading in local currencies to attain independence. He was of the view that this

consortium was one-third of the world’s total population and included two veto powers. Due to its ideal geostrategic and political location, Pakistan was ready to connect this consortium to the world. He said we would maximize to materialize that landmark opportunity.

Usman Aslam said that a positive energy is seen in the Pakistan and Iran business fraternities after the declaration of barter trade agreements between Pakistan, China, Iran, Russia, and Afghanistan. This agreement gains more significance when we see all major stakeholders of the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative. The governments have further formalized it by creating a facility in the Veboc system to officialise the trade. The trade missions of both countries, struggling because of foreign exchange, are to take advantage of the historic move by the CPEC’s major beneficiaries. The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Manufacturers Association’s (PAAPAM) management behold a lot of potential to scale up the bilateral trade between the partners.

## Gold rates decrease by Rs 2,500

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

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

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs2,800 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs.42.86 to 2,400.54.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$16 to \$1,959 from \$1,975, the association reported.

## PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 957 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 957.60 points, a positive change of 2.03 percent, closing at 48,034.60 points against 47,077.00 points the previous trading day.

A total of 491,874,957 shares were traded during the day as compared to 455,106,081 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 17,884 billion against Rs 17,879 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 358 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 188 of them recorded gains and 144 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 26 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 49,335,324 shares.

## SBP keeps policy rate unchanged at 22%

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

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

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

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

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

He said that the Committee noted that the economic uncertainty has decreased since the last meeting, whereas near-term external sector challenges had been largely addressed and investor confidence had shown improvement.

## ADB, AIIB delegation stress for timely completion of WASH projects

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

The delegation, led by Senior Project Officer Umar Ali Shah and representative from AIIB Ghufraan Syed, held a progress review meeting here on Monday. Project Director KPCIP Syed Zafar Ali, Director Compliance Amir Alam Khan, Director Technical Mian Shakeel Ahmad, and Director Finance Qazi Raees besides chief executive officers of water and sanitation companies from Peshawar, Kohat,

Mardan, Swat and Abbottabad and construction supervision consultants attended the meeting. Each City Implementation Unit (CIU) provided a detailed briefing on the status of all ongoing, proposed and recommended projects.

Furthermore, the Project Management Unit (PMU) team, led by the project director, briefed the delegation on the technical, financial, administrative and operational aspects of the projects being carried out in five division cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, namely Peshawar, Mardan, Mingora, Kohat, and Abbottabad. The consultants updated the delegation on the progress of work for each project. Following the briefing, the senior project officer emphasized that there should be no compromise.



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbrokers monitor share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

## SECP publishes Diagnostic Study on status of motor third-party insurance

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Monday released a Diagnostic Study providing a holistic synopsis of the existing landscape of motor third-party insurance in the country.

The Diagnostic Study is aimed to present an in-depth overview of the legal framework applicable to motor third-party insurance, current state of motor insurance, impediments in implementation and enforcement, recent initiatives taken by SECP, way forward containing recommendations.

This study is intended to serve as a starting point for discussion and

collaborative action planning on the implementation of Motor third-party insurance among key stakeholders, including central and provincial authorities, SECP, and the insurance sector. As per this study, motor insurance coverage in Pakistan is merely 3%, which is way lower compared to other major countries within the region. The current status of motor third-party insurance in Pakistan demands immediate attention. To increase motor insurance coverage and implement existing mandatory motor third-party insurance, the study provides policy recommendations for a multifaceted reform agenda.

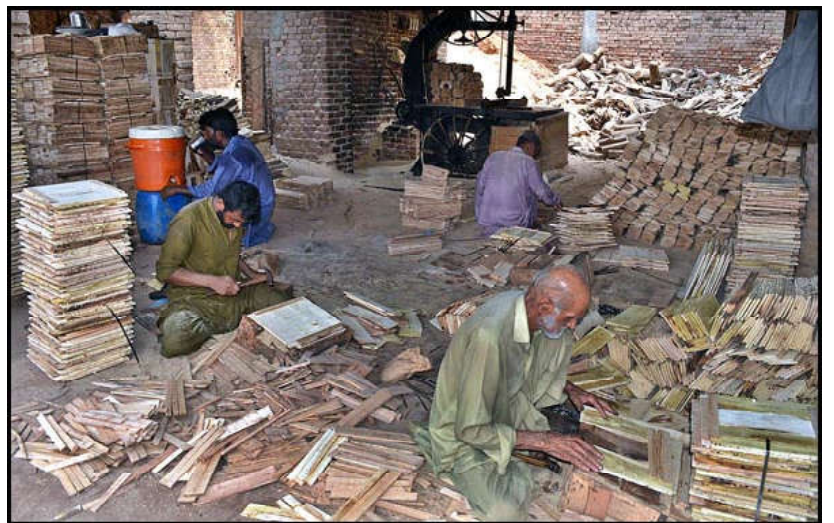
## Musadik says ‘Dust to Development’ conference to boost Pakistan’s mining sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Development was the commencement of a new era of mining in Pakistan as its scope was not limited to mining, but smelting and export as well.

“We will extract minerals like copper, lithium and iron and export the by-products of these minerals from its raw soil,” the minister added. Unveiling the mining vision of the government, he said that smart industrial clusters would be built in Baluchistan where the raw minerals from the soil would be extracted and converted into export items.

The minister emphasized that the export items generated through the utilization of these mineral resources would bring significant benefits to the country, multiplying the advantages manifold. The mining sector had great potential for job creation, the minister said and added that thousands of people would get jobs through the new mining vision of the government.

Underlining the mining rules complexities in Pakistan, he said that tangible actions would be taken in order to facilitate foreign direct investment.



SARGODHA: Workers are making wooden box at their workplace.

## KPRA to hold registration drive in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) on Monday announced to hold a three days registration drive throughout the province starting from Tuesday, August 1 till 3 to facilitate taxpayers at their doorsteps.

On the directives of Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) Shah Mahmood Khan teams from KPRA would set up mobile registration camps at various locations in the province where anyone associated with the services sector can visit and register their business with the Authority. Besides the mobile registration camps, teams of KPRA will conduct door-to-door visits to the business premises of people associated with the services sector to provide on-the-spot registration facilities to them.

“Taxpayers are our stakeholders and their utmost facilitation is our top priority. We are conducting the registration drive to facilitate our people and to ease their job. Anyone associated with the services sector can come and visit our mobile registration offices and get their businesses registered with the KPRA,” said Shah Mahmood Khan in his message.

## Rs 163m smuggled mobiles, electronic items seized

FAISALABAD (APP): Customs officials seized more than 1,000 smuggled mobile-phones and other electronic items worth Rs 163 million at the Faisalabad Airport.

Addressing a press conference at Faisalabad Dry Port on Monday, Collector Customs Enforcement Sargodha Collectorate Muhammad Ismail said that the staff had received information that a huge quantity of non-duty paid mobile-phones and other electronic items were being smuggled by the air travellers via Faisalabad airport.

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

MULTAN (APP): South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel, Vice Chancellor Secretary Agriculture Punjab, Iftikhar Ali Sahu, said on Monday that the province has been transformed into cotton valley after many years. He said that the mission of cotton recovery under Punjab Agriculture department was in progress successfully.

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

Secretary Agriculture expressed these views while addressing technical session organized at MNS Agricultural university to review the current situation of cotton, the attack of pests and diseases on the crop.

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Secretary Agriculture



LAHORE: Chairman Kissan Ittehad, Chaudhry Khalid Hussain Baath along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Lahore press club.

## SIFC projects will create employment opportunities; RCCI

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Monday said that the projects announced under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would not only increase foreign direct investment but also stabilize the rupee.

Addressing the RCCI’s executive committee meeting, President RCCI Saqib Rafique said that the proposed investment of friendly countries Qatar, UAE, Bahrain

and Saudi Arabia in approved projects like agriculture, minerals, IT, energy, petroleum and mining sectors would provide a solid foundation for Pakistan’s economy and will create more employment opportunities.

He said that after the approval of the three billion dollar package of the IMF program and funds from friendly countries, Saudi Arabia and the UAE has sent a positive message to the market.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Rana Mahmood Ul Hassan, Convener Senate Special Committee/Working Group to Streamline Holding of Mango Festival in Urumqi, Xinjiang, China, presiding over a meeting of the Senate Special Committee at Parliament House.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russian ballistic missiles slammed into an apartment complex and a university building in President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown Monday, killing six people and wounding 75 others as the blasts trapped residents beneath rubble, Ukrainian officials said. One of the two missiles that hit the central city of Kryvyi 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 Zelenskyy. 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 Zelenskyy's hometown, which has been hit in the past, happened a day after the Ukrainian president warned that the fighting was drawing closer to Russian land. "Gradually, the war is returning to the territory of Russia — to its symbolic centers and military bases, and this is an inevitable, natural and absolutely fair process," Zelenskyy said Sunday in his 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



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

## Dispute over Persian Gulf gas field poses early challenge to Saudi-Iranian rapprochement

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: An escalating dispute over a gas field in the Persian Gulf poses an early challenge to a Chinese-brokered agreement to reconcile regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Saudi Arabia and neighboring Kuwait jointly claim the offshore Al-Durra gas field. Iran says it has rights to the field, which it refers to as Arash. The two sides held talks in Iran in March but were unable to agree on a border demarcation.

A spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, Nasser Kanaani, said the country would not tolerate any infringement on its rights, echoing remarks by the country's oil minister the previous day.

"We have expressed our readiness to engage in dialogue with the Kuwaiti side," Kanaani told reporters Monday. "But if there

## 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," she said in a joint statement with Marcos. The Philippines is a fulcrum of the geopolitical rivalry between the United States and China, with its maritime territory encompassing part of the South China Sea.

## 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

## Shooting at police facility in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula kills at least 4 officers, officials say

**Monitoring Desk**  
EL-ARISH: A shooting Sunday at a heavily fortified security facility in the restive part of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula killed at least four police, including a senior officer, two security and health officials said.

At least 21 other forces were wounded in the shooting at the National Security headquarters in el-Arish, the capital city of North Sinai province, they said. A list of casualties obtained by The Associated Press showed that some forces suffered from gunshot wounds and others faced breathing difficulties from tear gas that was fired inside the facility. There were eight officers among the wounded, the list showed.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

The circumstances surrounding the shooting were not immediately clear, and there was no immediate comment from the Interior Ministry.



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



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.

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

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

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

Export controls will take effect Tuesday to prevent use of drones for "non-peaceful purposes," the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement.

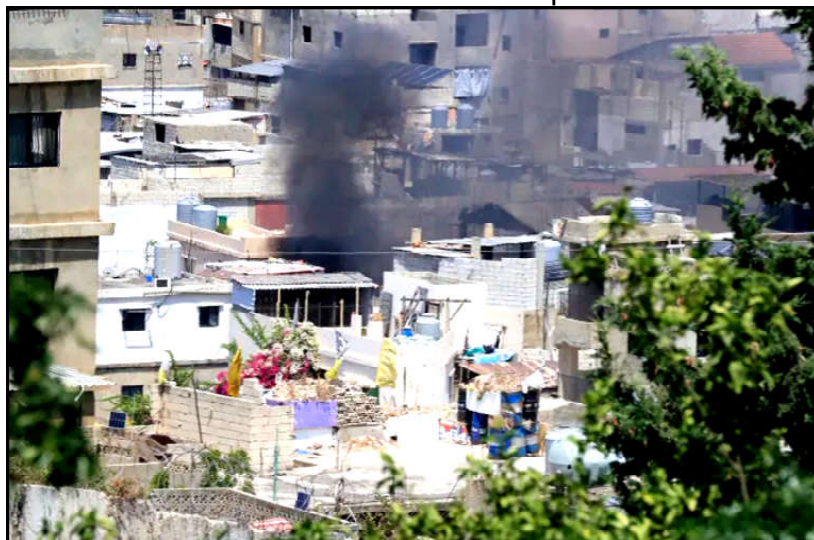
It said exports still will be allowed but didn't say what restrictions would apply.

China is a leading developer and exporter of drones. DJI Technology Co., one of the global industry's top competitors, announced in April 2022 it was pulling out of Russia and Ukraine to prevent its drones from being used in combat.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
HELSINKI: Denmark's foreign 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."



Smoke rises during a third day of clashes that erupted between members of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah group and Islamist factions in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh near the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanon.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: A state-run oil giant in the United Arab Emirates said Monday it has moved up its target for achieving net zero emissions in its operations to 2045, as the country prepares to host U.N. climate talks later this year.

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, known as ADNOC, said it is also committed to achieving zero methane emissions by 2030. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term.

Earlier this year, ADNOC earmarked \$15 billion for an array of green initiatives, including the development of hydrogen power, carbon capture facilities and the planting of mangroves.

The company had previously committed to net zero — the balancing of greenhouse gas emissions to the point that the amount removed from the atmosphere is equal to the amount emitted — by 2050. The UAE, an OPEC member that produces over 3 million barrels of crude oil a day, will host the global climate talks known as COP28 from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12 in Dubai.

## Officials say Saudi Arabia will host a Ukrainian-organized peace summit over Russia's war in August

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Saudi Arabia will host a Ukrainian-organized peace summit in early August seeking to find a way to start negotiations over Russia's war on the country, officials said Sunday.

The summit will be held in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, said one official, who spoke early Sunday on condition of anonymity as no authorization had been given to publicly discuss the summit. Russia was not invited, the official added.

Hours later, the head of Ukraine's presidential office, Andriy Yermak, confirmed the talks would be held in Saudi Arabia, without naming Jeddah as the location.

"The Ukrainian Peace Formula contains 10 fundamental points, the implementation of which will not only ensure peace for Ukraine, but also create mechanisms to counter future conflicts in the world," Yermak said in a statement. "We are deeply convinced that the Ukrainian peace plan should be taken as a basis, because the war is taking place on our land."

Yermak's statement described the 10 points as being "discussed individually and in groups with representatives of more than 50 countries on an almost weekly basis."

## 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

## Ukraine to start talks with US on security guarantees: senior official

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukraine is to start consultations with the United States this week on providing security guarantees for Kyiv pending the completion of the process of joining NATO, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff said on Sunday. Andriy Yermak, writing on the Telegram messaging app, also said officials from a number of countries were preparing to meet in Saudi Arabia to discuss Zelenskyy's peace plan for Ukraine, based on the departure of all Russian troops.

Yermak did not say when the next meeting would take place but said the plan would be discussed in three phases, leading up to a meeting of heads of state and government. The Wall Street Journal first reported on the meeting in Saudi Arabia on Saturday, saying it would be held in Jeddah on August 5-6.

The talks on security guarantees with the United States are a follow-up on pledges issued by the Group of 7 (G7) at the NATO summit in Lithuania earlier this month to draw up and honour security guarantees. "We are starting talks with the United States (this week)," Yermak wrote on Telegram.

"Security guarantees for Ukraine will be concrete, long-term obligations ensuring Ukraine's capacity to defeat and restrain Russian aggression in the future. These will be clearly drafted formats and mechanisms of support," he said. "The guarantees will be in effect until Ukraine secures NATO membership." The Western Alliance's Vilnius summit offered support to Ukraine in countering Russia's 17-month-old invasion and individual countries pledged new weapons, but no date for Ukrainian membership was set as long as the war continues.

## Iraq and Kuwait seek to solve contested border issue

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAGHDAD: Iraq and Kuwait will work towards reaching a definitive agreement on demarcating their borders, including a contested maritime area of the Gulf, their foreign ministers said on Sunday.

The de facto land and maritime borders between the neighbouring states were established by the United Nations in 1993, three years after Iraq under Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.

While Iraqi officials have previously expressed a readiness to recognise Kuwait's land border, the maritime border remains a point of contention.

Baghdad insists that the delimitation should provide it unhindered access to Gulf waters, a lifeline for its economy and oil exports.

Because of the longstanding dispute, Kuwaiti coastguards regularly detain Iraqi fishermen and seize their vessels for entering Kuwaiti territorial waters

## Extreme rain in Beijing after typhoon turns roads into rivers, kills two

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: In Beijing's western suburbs, cars were swept away on Monday as relentless rain since the weekend transformed roads into rivers, killing at least two and trapping hundreds, despite an overnight evacuation of tens of thousands from their homes.

Hundreds of roads have become flooded in China's capital, with videos posted by state media showing half-submerged vehicles in Mentougou district pulled along by fast-moving torrents as the remnants of Typhoon Doksuri dumped record rainfall on the city of nearly 22 million.

Two bodies were found in a river during an emergency patrol in Mentougou as rescuers pulled hundreds to safety in other parts of the city.

Besides Beijing, heavy rain continued to soak the neighbouring city of Tianjin as well as Hebei province in a region nearly the size of Britain in the wake of Doksuri, which

Parliamentarians call for uncovering elements behind terrorist attack

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

(JUI-F) gathering in Bajaur and emphasized the urgent need to identify and expose the elements responsible for terrorist incidents across the country.

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

and requested the suspension of the question hour to discuss this grave and tragic incident.

He highlighted that a similar incident occurred on May 9, intended to weaken the institutions responsible for protecting the country.

Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali, while addressing the House, regarded the attack as an assault on Pakistan, all political parties, the

Constitution, and democracy itself. He pointed out that such incidents of terrorism had already resulted in the martyrdom of numerous law enforcement personnel, police officers, and civilians.

He emphasized the urgency of revealing the hidden hands behind these brutal acts.

Minister for Communication, Maulana Asad Mehmood, expressed his condolences for the loss of JUI-F workers and

stood in solidarity with the bereaved families. He stressed that the attack wasn't merely targeting a specific party but

was an attack on the entire nation, its economy, democracy, and innocent citizens.

He lamented that political workers who stood firmly for the constitution and democracy were continuously becoming targets of violence.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, clauses 15 and 16 of the proposed bill were supported both by the ministry and the committee.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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.

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 Aitwan-e-Sadr, today.

Welcoming the dele-

gation, the President highlighted that Pakistan and China enjoyed an All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and always stood by each other in difficult times.

He added that Pakistan and China had a unique relationship and the world must learn from the time-tested friendship between the two brotherly countries. He appreciated that bilateral relations between the two countries had continued to expand to new areas of cooperation.

Talking about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the President said that CPEC would transform the economic landscape of Pakistan, besides bringing prosperity to the region. He added that CPEC had considerably helped in overcoming the shortage of elec-

tricity in Pakistan. He maintained that Pakistan would continue to extend firm support to China on all its core issues.

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

Conveying his gratitude to the President, the Chinese Vice-Premier recalled President Dr Arif Alvi's solidarity visit to

China in March 2020, saying that the visit would be remembered by the people of China as he undertook it during a difficult time despite the risks of COVID-19 pandemic.

He noted with delight that CPEC had brought significant transformation in Pakistan's socio-economic and infrastructural landscape and was now poised to further enhance Pakistan's economic, trade, and connectivity profile in the entire region and beyond.

The Vice-Premier apprised the President about the measures taken by the Chinese Government for the elimination of poverty in China. He thanked the President for the conferment of Hilal-e-Pakistan upon him in recognition of his services.

ANP leader Aimal Wali calls on PM

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

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

LPG price goes up by Rs23 per kg

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

LPG users will have to bear tremendous pressure after the increase in the price. The rate of 11.8kg of LPG cylinder now stands at Rs2,373.64 after an increase of Rs281.51.

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



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

Governor Balochistan calls KP's counterpart; condoles on Bajor terrorism incident

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar contacted the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gaji Gulam Ali over telephone on Monday.

During his telephonic conversation, the Governor Balochistan expressed condolence on the martyrdom of several innocent people in the Bajor bomb blast.

He also prayed for the departed souls of those

martyred in the incident and early recovery of those injured in it.

The Governor Balochistan said that the people of province share the grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the terrorism act with the people of KP.

He said that all of us are grieved over the loss of lives of the workers of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) and injuries caused to others in the Bajor bomb blast.

Anti-polio drive in Jhal Magsi from Aug 1

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

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

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

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

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



WADH: Chief of Sarawan Nawab Muhammad Aslam Khan Raisani and Nawabzada Haji Lashkari during second round of reconciliation talk

Commissioner directs to complete renovation of Airport road by Aug 14

QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Sohailur Rehman Baloch has directed the concerned high ups to complete the repair and renovation of the Airport road and its adjacent areas well before August 14 by taking every possible steps.

The Commissioner was on the visit of different sites regarding beautifying and making them attractive on the Airport Road here on Monday.

The Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Shaihak Baloch was also accompanied with the Commissioner.

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner on the occasion directed to highlight the culture and civilization of the province in the renovation work of

different sites. He said that the beautiful face of the province would be projected by renovating the Airport road.

He also said that it is endeavor of the provincial government and administration to make the city beautiful and clean so that the people may recognize Quetta as a beautiful and modern city.

In addition to this, the Commissioner directed to take steps for improvement of the monuments and statues placed at Airport road and the intersections.

Meanwhile, the concerned high ups briefed the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner about the steps taken for renovation and beautification of Airport road and its adjacent roads.

Wanted terrorist killed in Kulachi

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

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

Poor management in Gun, Canterbury club led to earn defamation: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) has remarked poor management in Gun and Canterbury club led to earn defamation.

"additional secretary Sahb, take the case seriously. Don't make it matter of ego. It is national asset, CJP gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-member bench during the hearing of the case related to Gun and Canterbury matter here Monday.

Additional IPC assured to present the Bill 2023 related to Gun and Canterbury club legislation this week in parliament.

The court remarked CDA together with Federal government should resolve the matters pertaining to lease and other outstanding

arrears. The administration of Gun and Country club has already hired services of internal audit company.

CJP remarked poor management in Gun and Country club led to earn defamation.

Gun and Country club is meant for providing facilities to people and it is not only for reaping benefits.

The CJP while smiling remarked some other bench will hear this case after one month.

When the court summoned audit report within two weeks then Naem Bokhari said he is going outside the country for one month.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case for one month.



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 Office, which was witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, who is on a three-day visit to Pakistan to mark 10-year

celebrations of the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The members of the Federal Cabinet and senior officials, besides the high-level Chinese delegation accompanying the Chinese vice premier, were also present in the ceremony, a Planning Ministry news release said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

sion prevailing along the entire Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

"Progress could not be achieved without peace. Solving this issue requires collective effort," he said, demanding the government initiate a national consultation for establishing peace.

Earlier, the JI chief also visited the Haji Lawang to offer fateh for the deceased and console with the families of the victims.

Haq said the federal government was preoccupied with its own affairs in its final days and the KP caretaker government was limited to its secretariat, with its sole function being transfer postings.