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Pakistan committed to CPEC as 'corridor of socio-economic growth': PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has expressed the country's commitment to jointly building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying the project has transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan. "The CPEC has transformed the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan, upgrading modern infrastructure, enhancing regional connectivity, ensuring energy security, and creating jobs," the prime minister wrote in his article published in Global Times China.

and Road Initiative (BRI), said Pakistan endorses China's vision of CPEC as a corridor of growth. As the flagship project of the BRI, he said, CPEC marks a milestone in Pakistan-China relations by placing "economic cooperation and connectivity at the very center of the bilateral agenda," making the two countries more interconnected. "We fully endorse China's proposal of developing the CPEC as a corridor of growth, livelihood, innovation, greenness, and openness - representing our two countries' preference for a human-centric approach, inclusivity, and green development," he said.

He said Pakistan and its people, with absolute confidence, value the relationship greatly, and proudly call China as best friend. It is heart-warming that in China, the term "Ba Tie" meaning Iron Brother is reserved only for Pakistan, he added. He termed the historical evolution of the Paki-

stan-China relationship amid the evolving regional and global developments as an "exemplary model of inter-state relationship". "The unique relationship of more than seven decades, underpinned by the rationale of strong political support, mutual trust, and all-round practical cooperation, has matured into a strong strategic partnership," he said. The prime minister paid tribute to the vision and statesmanship of President Xi Jinping who propounded the vision of building a global community of shared future, a new idea for global governance and cooperation, and a fresh approach toward international exchanges, thus drawing up a new blueprint for a better interconnected world. He quoted Zhou Enlai,

China's first premier, who once said that "the friendly interactions between the peoples of China and Pakistan date back to the dawn of history" and mentioned in this regard the historic links such as the Silk Road and Gandhara civilization. The prime minister said Pakistan was pioneering member of the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by President Xi Jinping and played an active role in giving it a more concrete shape. "As the first one to ink a Memorandum of Understanding on the GDI, Pakistan stands ready to benefit from this cooperation in areas of education, healthcare, climate change, and poverty reduction," he said.



BEIJING: Mr. Wang Zhigang, Minister of Science & Technology of China receiving Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon his arrival.

IHC rules Imran Khan's trial in cipher case will be held in jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ruled that the trial of PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan will be held in jail.

Presenting his arguments during today's hearing, Imran Khan's lawyer Sardar Latif Khosa said that former prime minister and PTI chairman was the Chief Executive of this country and his oath gives authority to the Chief Executive in such a situation.

He said that the cipher case will be held in jail. The PTI chairman had challenged the notification of the Ministry of Law and Justice that allowed the holding of cipher case trial in jail.

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjran at Parliament House.

Senate Chairman, Indonesian envoy unite for stronger bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan, Adam M. Tugio, met with Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjran at the Parliament House and discussed matters of mutual interest, culminating in a commitment to strengthen bilateral ties, particularly in the areas of trade and investment.

Chairman Senate expressed his steadfast determination to deepen relations with Indonesia, emphasizing the historical support both nations have provided each other during challenging times. Acknowledging the intrinsic value of the Pakistan-Indonesia relationship, Chairman Senate highlighted the need to augment economic cooperation, focusing on trade, culture, and tourism.

During the meeting, the favorable investment climate in Pakistan was underscored, with Chairman Senate encouraging Indonesian businessmen to explore investment opportunities. Stressing the necessity to boost the trade volume between the two countries, he also emphasized the importance of reinforcing parliamentary ties and fostering economic diplomacy.

The parties delved into the intricate situation in Palestine, advocating a resolution aligned with UN resolutions. Chairman Senate urged world powers to exert pressure on Israel, emphasizing the need to halt the suffering of innocent Palestinians. In addressing the global challenge of Islamophobia, the Chairman Senate emphasized the significance of unity and consensus among Muslim nations. Expressing mutual admiration, Ambassador Adam M. Tugio described Indonesia's view of Pakistan as crucial. He commended Pakistan's efforts for regional peace and expressed Indonesia's keen interest in advancing bilateral relations across various domains.

Farrukh Habib quits PTI, joins IPP

LAHORE (INP): Another key politician of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former minister Farrukh Habib announced to quit the party on Monday.

According to details, Farrukh Habib who was considered one of the close aides of PTI Chairman Imran Khan during the last regime also announced to join the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP). Farrukh Habib had disappeared for the last several months and suddenly appeared before the media and announced separating his ways with Imran Khan in a press conference.

Interestingly, he reached the office of the newly established political party, the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and held a press conference there. Talking to media persons, Farrukh Habib said for the last five months, there was a thought in his mind about parting away to the PTI and Chairman Imran Khan.

The former minister also said that after the events of May 9, they were away from home. He accepted that the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan was constitutionally presented and instead of political struggle, they adopted the ways of anarchy.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

14 DAYS REMAINING

14

Kakar calls for immediate ceasefire, lifting of blockade in Gaza

ISLAMABAD (Online) Pakistan has made its stance on Israel-Palestine situation clear that we stand in solidarity with oppressed people of Palestine.

needs to be seen in the context of years of forced and illegal occupation of Palestinian territory and repressive policies against its people.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has called for an immediate ceasefire and lifting of the blockade in Gaza.

In a tweet on Monday, he expressed Pakistan's complete solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine. Expressing deep concern on the ongoing violence and loss of life in Gaza, the Prime Minister said Israel's deliberate, indiscriminate and disproportionate targeting of civilians is against all norms of civility and in manifest violation of international law.

Oman Army commander lauds Pakistan's efforts for regional peace

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commander Royal Army of Oman, Major General Matar bin Salim bin Rashid Al-Balushi called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) on Monday.

The visiting dignitary lauded the Pakistan Army's achievements in the fight against terrorism and continued efforts for regional peace and stability, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

PUIIC convenes emergency meeting on Palestine crisis

ISLAMABAD (Online): In response to the alarming developments in the Palestinian territories, the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States (PUIIC) convened a virtual emergency meeting today, uniting key representatives to address the escalating crisis.

Active participation was noted from Pakistani Senators, including Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Senator Faissal Saleem Rahman, Senator Sana Jamali, and Mir Shai Mazar Baloch, Director General (Coordination) Senate.

Expressing profound concern over the ongoing violence, the participants collectively appealed to the United Nations to intervene and halt the continuous violations of international law by Israeli forces.



Senator Nuzhat Sadiq attending the Virtual Emergency meeting of the Parliamentary Union of OIC member States (PUIIC) to discuss serious developments of the situation of Palestine Territories, at Parliament House Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki at Naval headquarter.

Solangi vows level-playing field to political parties in electoral process

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Monday said it was the caretaker's responsibility to ensure level-playing for all the registered political parties during the whole electoral process.

Ministers discussed matters related to mutual interests including the upcoming general election, media cooperation between federal and provincial information departments and pathways for capacity building of journalists. They also discussed a plan to train Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's information officers in the Information Services Academy (ISA) here at Islamabad.

Solangi said his ministry would provide all possible cooperation to strengthen the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Relations Department along new lines. In accordance with the mandate of the caretaker federal government, all-possible cooperation would be extended for better working environment with the provincial departments, he added.

Participants, including speakers/presidents of Parliaments from Bahrain, Egypt, Tunisia, Malaysia, Turkey, Iran, Kuwait, Syria, UAE, Lebanon, Mauritania, and Guyana, spoke on the occasion. They emphasized the critical importance of presenting a united front against these human rights violations.

Both the Information and Broadcasting Ministers discussed matters related to mutual interests including the upcoming general election, media cooperation between federal and provincial information departments and pathways for capacity building of journalists. They also discussed a plan to train Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's information officers in the Information Services Academy (ISA) here at Islamabad.

Journalists' Welfare Endowment Fund rules were crucial for the welfare of journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murtaza Solangi said, adding the fraternity had to perform duties in tough situations.

Gas tariff likely to be increased by 100pc on IMF demand

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan caretaker government is likely to jack up gas tariff by 100pc on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) demand, sources said Monday.

Pakistan, Iran, Egypt agree for steps to prevent Gaza conflict escalation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Foreign Affairs Jilil Abbas Jilani on Monday telephonically spoke to his counterparts from Iran and Egypt and discussed the crisis in Gaza including the killing of civilians.

Both sides agreed that urgent steps were needed to prevent conflict from escalating and the provision of humanitarian assistance.

According to sources knowing the matter, the IMF demanded an increase in gas tariff from up to 100pc before the next economic review to curtail circular debt in the gas sector. Sources said the shortfall of Rs185 billion will be added to the circular debt of the gas sector if the gas tariff is not increased. The current circular debt of the gas sector is touching Rs2,700 billion.

The foreign minister, in the conversation with Iranian counterpart Hossien Amir Abdollahian also discussed the large-scale displacement of the Palestinians from their homes.

The foreign minister also assured of Pakistan's humanitarian assistance.

CM Punjab orders reduction in commodity prices and transport fare following petrol price cut

Independent Report
LAHORE: Acting upon the special directives of Punjab's Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a decision has been made to promptly pass on the benefits of significant reduction in petroleum prices directly to the people of Punjab.

In a pivotal meeting convened at the Chief Minister's Office and presided over by Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a deadline of 48 hours was set for implementing price reductions. Additionally, the task of reducing transport fares by 10%

was assigned, aligning them proportionally with the special directives of Punjab's Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a decision has been made to promptly pass on the benefits of significant reduction in petroleum prices directly to the people of Punjab.

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KARACHI: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamaran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

CM reviews progress of Band Road controlled access corridor project

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi conducted a morning inspection of the ongoing Controlled Access Corridor project on Band Road.

He meticulously assessed the progress of this significant endeavor, spanning from Niazi Chowk to Babu Sabu. He underscored the importance of ensuring smooth traffic flow on the closed road throughout the construction phase. He emphasized that the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) should personally oversee operations and

ANF seizes 108 kg drugs; arrests three

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country managed to recover 108 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 24.8 kg hashish was recovered from an accused, resident of Kohat arrested on Super Highway Karachi. On the pointation of the accused, a co-accused, resident of Karachi was also arrested. In another operation at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi Courier Office, ANF recovered 180 grams.

Governor asks teachers to protest without skipping classes

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman has said that all the right demands of teachers should be heard however, teachers must not skip classes for protests which will hurt students' future.

Talking to APP, he said that teachers are founder of our future and the government will solve their grievances.

He urged teachers to work on recruiting more students at school and help in improving Pakistan's literacy rate.

Responding to a question, he said that Pakistan was heading in the right direction and as a result, Pakistan's economy was improving.

He said that the

recent decrease in petrol prices, dollar, and gold rates were indicators of better economic conditions.

Governor Punjab said that an international cricket stadium would be constructed in Bahawalpur.

He said that sports activities must be promoted among youth and more grounds must be made available for them.

Engr Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman said that youth must not indulge in negative ventures and refrain from following anti-state propaganda. He said that political parties must teach their followers respect and acceptance of opposite ideologies.

ICCBS successfully cultivates organic cotton in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Researchers at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi (UoK) have successfully cultivated multiple generations of cotton in Karachi with low energy costs in a year.

This is the first time Organic Cotton has been grown in Karachi, and this experimental production can be expanded with the support of the federal and

provincial governments in Sindh and Balochistan. ICCBS research team, working under the supervision of Dr. Shahid Mansoor, at the Biotechnology Wing of the HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry was able to grow multiple generations of cotton in Karachi with low energy costs.

In addition, the ICCBS research team has not found any evidence of cotton leaf curl disease or major cotton pests in the product.

NH&MP sets up free eye camp for drivers

HYDERABAD (APP): The National Highway and Motorway Police (NH&MP) set up a free eye camp for the drivers near the Hyderabad toll plaza on the M9 Motorway in Jamshoro district on Monday.

An official informed that during the day-long camp, it surfaced that the drivers of heavy transport vehicles including the public transport vehicles suffered from eye-sight issues and some other ailments of eyes.

Pakistan needs indigenous knowledge-based, local solutions for enhanced climate resilience: Speakers

KARACHI (APP): The Speakers on Monday at a panel discussion on climate action urged the government and departments concerned to join hands for collating and collaborating indigenous knowledge-based solutions for enhanced resilience of the country against adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute convened a panel discussion at the launch of Four thematic Policy Position Papers with members of the academia, civil society, journalists and business community.

Opening the panel discussion, Deputy Executive Director, SDPI, Dr. Shafiqat Munir Ahmad briefed the participants on the Four Thematic Policy papers discussing the country's position on climate finance, institutional capacities for climate action, policy frameworks and the Loss and Damage that had been created at the global to provide a platform for reparations to the most impacted countries through climate catastrophes.

Dr Shafiqat Munir said the crisis of climate change had no boundaries and it impacted all the nations without any distinction.

However, the country was lagging in terms effective implementation of its convincing policy instruments established to cope with the climate disasters.

He underlined that the country had separate ministries of subjects that were equally impacted due to climate change and demanded an intricate and integrated approach.

"We need to align and develop coherence in existing system and ministries to address climate change. The country will also have to maintain technical climate human resource expert on the subject," he added.

He also pointed out that amid growing vulnerability of the country due to climate change it was needed to revise the national disaster risk reduction (DRR) Policy to set targets and key areas like risk understanding, governance, financing and overall framework for collaboration.

Former VP FPCCI, Member Board of Governors SDPI, Eng MA Jabbar felicitated the institute for successfully compiling the policy papers.

He mentioned that the increase in migration to wards urban centers was burdening the existing capacities of those cities leading to economic impact driving climate and financial crisis.

Climate change affecting tools in the country, he said were the power generation plants that had the capacity of 41,000 megawatts (MW) whereas India got 413,000 megawatts plant installed yesterday.

He compared the India and Pakistan coal to energy potential and mentioned that Pakistan had \$183 billion coal reserves which was one of the highest in the world.



LAHORE: Sikh Yatrees are being welcomed on their arrival at JCP Wagah Border.



LARKANA: Students of Government Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Law College are holding protest demonstration against the examination fee being increased by administration of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

International News

Gaza aid stuck as Egypt says Israel not cooperating

Monitoring Desk
ISMAILIA: Egypt said on Monday that Israel was not cooperating with the delivery of aid into Gaza and evacuations of foreign passport holders via the only entry it does not wholly control, leaving hundreds of tonnes of supplies stuck.

Cairo says the Rafah crossing, a potentially vital opening for desperately needed supplies into the besieged Palestinian enclave, is not officially closed but is inoperable due to Israeli air strikes on the Gaza side.

"There is an urgent need to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian civilians in Gaza," Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told reporters, adding that talks with Israel had not been fruitful.

"Until now the Israeli government has not taken a position on opening the Rafah crossing from the Gaza side to allow the entrance of assistance and exit of citizens of third countries."

More than 2 million Gazans have been under siege since Israel launched an intense bombardment and blockade in retaliation for an assault by the Hamas Islamist militants.

Two Egyptian security sources had told Reuters a ceasefire in southern Gaza to last several hours had been agreed for Monday morning to facilitate aid and evacuations at Rafah.

However, Israel denied that.

"There is currently no truce and humanitarian aid in Gaza in exchange for getting foreigners out," a statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

Hamas official Izzat El-Reshiq told Reuters the same.

On the ground at Rafah, one source said that there had been no bombardments on Monday and that the Egyptian side of the crossing was ready.



Palestinians recover a body from under the rubble of a building destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in Khan Yunis in the southern of Gaza Strip.

Russia's Putin speaks to Iran, Israel, Palestinians, Syria and Egypt

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin entered the fevered diplomatic fray of the Middle East on Monday, speaking to five of the major players including Iran and leading Arab powers in an attempt to secure a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas.

Russia, which has relationships with Iran, Hamas, major Arab powers as well as with the Palestinians and with Israel, has repeatedly said the United States and the West have ignored the need for an independent Palestinian state within 1967 borders.

Putin spoke to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad by telephone, the Kremlin said. He also plans to speak to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, it said.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told Putin that the situation was escalating, that Israeli army actions were "indiscriminate" and that the risk was that Israel would begin a ground operation against Gaza.

"The threat is high that this whole conflict gets out of control," Ryabkov told Putin at a meeting also attended by Russia's spy chiefs and military leaders.

He said that the United States was ultimately responsible for the crisis due to its failed policy in the Middle East and that Washington was blocking a Russian resolution in the UN Security Council.

Putin, who says the West is seeking to cleave Russia apart by supporting Ukraine, says the current violence in the Middle East shows just how far U.S. policy in the region has failed.

Putin will meet Xi Jinping in China this week in a bid to deepen a partnership forged between the United States' two biggest strategic competitors.

France's Macron holds security meeting amid heightened alert after deadly school stabbing

Monitoring Desk
ARRAS: French President Emmanuel Macron held a special security meeting on Monday amid heightened alert against feared terror threats, as a high school where a teacher was fatally stabbed in an attack last week has been evacuated over a bomb threat. Several hundreds of students and teachers went back into the high school in the northern town of Arras after what appeared to be a false alert.

All French schools held a moment of silence on Monday afternoon in homage to the teacher who was killed in Friday's attack by a former student suspected of Islamic radicalization.

The homage also paid tribute to another teacher, Samuel Paty, killed exactly three years ago near his Paris area school. He was beheaded by a radicalized Chechen later killed by police. Macron cut short travel plans abroad to hold a security meeting at midday with the prime minister and other key government members as well as top military and counterterrorism officials.

He initially planned to attend a summit on the Western Balkans in Tirana, Albania. Speaking at the end of the meeting, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said that 102 people have been arrested in relation with antisemitic acts.



Hlas-Social Democracy party chairman Peter Pellegrini, Smer-Social Democracy party chairman Robert Fico and Slovak National Party chairman Andrej Danko sign a coalition agreement to form a new government in Bratislava, Slovakia.



A view of trucks carrying humanitarian aid for Palestinians, as they wait for the re-opening of the Rafah border crossing to enter Gaza, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in the city of Al-Arish, Sinai peninsula, Egypt.

No, Rafael's 'Iron Beam' laser didn't blow up missiles over Israel

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Videos circulating on social media purporting to show a high-energy laser weapon destroying missiles during the Israel-Hamas war are actually altered clips derived from a military simulation video game. Cropped, low-resolution footage depicting swarms of overhead projectiles being intercepted in front of a tower are sourced from Arma 3, a photorealistic game billed as a "massive military sandbox" by its publisher, Bohemia Interactive.

Multiple prominent accounts on X, formerly Twitter, shared videos over the weekend incorrectly claiming they showed the real-world application of Iron Beam, developed by Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

Czech Republic-based Bohemia Interactive on Oct. 10 warned that its game — set in a futuristic, fictional conflict, and easily modded and recorded by players — was being used to peddle misinformation.

Moscow does not violate UN sanctions against North Korea - Russian diplomat

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Moscow does not violate United Nations sanctions against North Korea, but is categorically against new restrictive measures on Pyongyang, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told the RIA state news agency in remarks published on Sunday.

"Russia, as a responsible member of the world community, strictly adheres to its international obligations towards Pyongyang through the UN Security Council," Russian Ambassador at Large Oleg Burmistrov told RIA in an interview.

"At the same time, we are categorically against the introduction of new restrictive measures."

The White House on Friday said North Korea recently provided Russia with a shipment of weapons, calling it a troubling development and raising concerns about the expanded military relationship between the two countries.

China calls for ceasefire in Israel, suggests mediation at meeting with Russia

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's foreign minister on Monday called for a ceasefire to halt the bloodshed in Israel, suggesting at a meeting with his Russian counterpart that major world powers should work to avoid a humanitarian disaster Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov discussed the conflict between Israel and Hamas with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing ahead of a visit by President Vladimir Putin to China.

"The United Nations Security Council must take action, and the major powers should play an active role," Wang told Lavrov, according to a Chinese transcript of the meeting.

"It is imperative that a ceasefire be put in place, that the two sides be brought back to the negotiating table, and that an emergency humanitarian channel be established to prevent a further humanitarian disaster." Russia and China, both permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Govt plans to include health, hygiene in curricula: Dr Nadeem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr Nadeem Jan on Monday said that the government had planned to include health, hygiene, and nutrition in the curricula to create awareness among people from the childhood.

He was addressing a women convention on 'Family Planning and Population', which was organized by the Population Programme Wing (PPW) of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination.

The minister said that the main objective of the convention was to raise the awareness and knowledge of women, particularly the rural women on population issues and family planning.

He said that the population of Pakistan was growing at an alarmingly high growth rate, with addition of around 6.1 million new individuals every year. "This is more than the

size of the total population of countries like Singapore, Denmark and Norway," he added. "It means every year we are adding the population more than the Denmark's population in Pakistan."

He said, "When population is growing we need to increase the resources. If we cannot rapidly increase our resources, we should focus on stabilization and management of our population at the family, community and country level and it is a huge pressure on our resources and economy."

He suggested to integrate the health, population and nutrition at the federal and provincial levels which would synergize and complement each other. He quoted the example of Iran where family is taken as a unit.

He said that health as well as the family planning were the fundamental hu-

man rights. "There is a direct link between female status and development. Women can contribute in the development through literate, educated, well aware and empowered females."

He said that at the policy level, the number of lady health workers would be increased to 150,000. "We will integrate polio workers and volunteers, which are our asset into LHWs (lady health workers) to address the uncovered areas."

He said that the government would ensure due respect and dignity for the hospital staff, nurses, midwives, doctors and community workers.

He suggested that there should be a dashboard at the district, provincial and federal levels showing real time information on health, population and family planning to indicate as to where we are going.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan presenting a shield to UNFPA Country Director Dr. Luay Shabaneh at All Pakistan Women Convention on Family Planning and Population Management.

HEC explores opportunities for students, faculty in WBAF Financial Inclusion Programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan held here Monday a meeting with Executive Chairman World Business Angel Forum (WBAF), Mr. Babarys Altuntas to explore opportunities for students and faculty under the WBAF Financial Inclusion Programme.

Chaired by Chairman HEC Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, the meeting was attended by Vice Chancellors/Pro-Vice Chancellors of leading public sector universities including MNS University of Agriculture Multan, National Textile University Faisalabad, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, National University of Modern Languages Islamabad, Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, DOW University of Health Sciences Karachi, National University of Science & Technology Islamabad.

CEO IGNITE Mr. Asim Hussain, Director General R&I HEC Hazrat Bilal, Director R&I HEC Ms. Noshaba Awais, and representatives of universities' Business Incubation Centres, also attended the meeting.

The meeting held in continuation of the recent collaboration established between HEC and WBAF, in March 2023 on the sidelines of the 5th Vice Chancellors Forum. WBAF, an international organization, aims to ease access to finance for start-ups for generating jobs in the world economy.

Solangi says CPEC major milestone in shape of successful projects in several sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi said on Monday that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a major milestone in shape of successful projects in Pakistan including road infrastructure, power sector, and industrial zones worth 62 billion dollars.

Delivering his speech at the CPEC Art Exhibition jointly organised by Behria University and China Media Group here he said he was glad to note that relations between Pakistan and China were getting stronger with every passing day.

The minister said that

above all people were the heart and soul of every thing and they were focus of every initiative that the government launched. The minister said it was well established fact that arts and culture had a deeper impact on human lives. He said it was encouraging that in this event not only art pieces were being exhibited but interactive media was also included in this exhibition.

He hoped that new interactive media would attract more young people and make them aware of the importance of Pakistan, China friendship and how this was reflected through the CPEC projects.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Jamat-e-Islami (Women wing) hold banners and placards during "Free Palestine Rally" in City.

Prominent persons call on Jamal Shah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent arts and academia figures here on Monday met with Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah at the Culture Division to discuss cultural preservation and peace, exploring academic partnerships to empower youth creatively, concluding with a friendly gathering.

Conversations also revolved around plans to establish academic connections with periphery universities to empower youth creatively, said a press release issued here.

The meeting included attendees such as film director Sajjad Ahmed, Prof. Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Kundi, who previously served as

the VC of both Gomal University and Bahauddin Zakariya University, Former ED HEC, Islamabad, and Sarfaraz Ali Korojo, who holds the position of Executive Director of Students Advancement Fund Endowment (SAFE) at Shah Abdul Latif University, and is the Founder of the Pak-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) Sukkur Chapter, among others who met with the minister.

In the meeting, they conveyed their best wishes to the minister.

During meeting, they talked about common areas of interest and matters concerning the promotion and preservation of the country's artistic and cultural heritage.

Competent officers should be transferred to Operations division; ICCPO

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan held an important meeting at Central Police Officer, a public relations officer said.

He said that, during the meeting, the ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan assessed the performance of all divisions and issued directives to improve their performance further. Senior police officers from all divisions of Islamabad Capital Police were present at the occasion.

The meeting emphasized the effective use of

the ICT-15 application by all officers and officials, effectively in fulfilling their official duties. Directives were given to strengthen the security of all important government offices and installations.

Special directions were issued to SSP Operations, to improve the standard and effectiveness of Operations division by appointing officers skilled in investigation matters.

Those police officers and officials who have been suspended should not be sent for training courses. Directives were also given to reduce delays in case processing due to SOPs.



ISLAMABAD: Teachers are shouting slogans during protest outside National Press Club as More than 300 teachers working in Federal Capital's schools under wedlock have appealed to President Dr Arif Alvi to sign the much-awaited legislation entitled "Protection of Family Life and Wedlock Bill 2023" which was passed by both Houses of the Parliament, the National Assembly and the Senate of Pakistan.

AC conducts massive crackdown on encroachers, violators of polythene ban

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a massive crackdown on encroachers, beggars, and violators of the polythene ban, the Assistant Commissioner Secretariat Islamabad Aneel Saeed visited different areas of the Secretariat Sub-Division and conducted price checks, inspected the unauthorized use of polythene bags and overall cleanliness, and took action against violators in accordance with the law.

Four encroachers were arrested and transferred to the police station, and their goods were seized. Thirty-six profes-

sional beggars were also arrested from different areas of Islamabad, ICT spokesman said on Monday.

He also issued a warning on the unauthorized use of open spaces, instructions were issued for immediate registration with the (MCI / DMA) under the law.

The Assistant Commissioner also ensured the implementation of dengue SOPs, warning was issued for violating the SOPs. He also inspected the petrol pumps, bakeries, cash and carry for fire fighting arrangements and a warning was issued.



ISLAMABAD: Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and Director China Cultural Center in Pakistan Zhang Heqing wrote Long Live Pak-china Friendship on charts during the celebrations of 74th Anniversary of Founding of the People's Republic of China - Celebrating a Decade of CPEC and BRI at local hotel in Federal Capital.

Italian Embassy hosts immersive digital art exhibition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Italian Embassy in Pakistan on Monday organized an immersive digital art exhibition, bringing an innovative art form to the Pakistani audience. Speaking on the occasion, Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese expressed his pride in presenting the unique showcase of digital art to the public, highlighting its versatility and wide range of possibilities.

The ambassador acknowledged the artwork of Stefano Fake, one of Italy's celebrated digital artists. He praised Italy's capacity to blend historical heritage with new and creative arts, dispelling the notion that the country was solely associated with its past. Stefano Fake, in his address, delved into the journey of digital art, which he began nearly 30 years ago.

He described his transition from traditional art to digital tools in 1997, culminating in the establishment of his studio in 2001, dedicated to creating immersive

art experiences. Fake underlined that every era had its unique artistic tools, and digital art represented the current period's creative expression. He said, "The purpose of art is, after all, to create original and imaginative forms of aesthetic expression shared with a community through experiences and events."

Stefano Fake's early work in this field was initially met with skepticism, often being associated with music or youth-centric events. However, over time, digital art gained recognition and acceptance. His exhibitions now span the globe, from Germany to Colombia, and even recent showcases in Berlin and Shanghai. This transformation reflects the growing appreciation for new media art worldwide.

One of Fake's groundbreaking approaches was to immerse audiences in a digital environment, using video projection to transform spaces and even people.

Umrah draw held at AIOU

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Employees Welfare Association (EWA) of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) organised an Umrah draw in the university's auditorium the other day.

Six members from grade 2 to 16 including Irfan Ahmed, Farman Ali, Iram Nazli, Mumtaz Alam, Riassat Hussain and Muhammad Ansar, while 5 members from grade 17 to 21 including Shah Farrukh, Zahida Parveen, Shafique Ahmed, Aftab Ahmed and Naveed Sultana were among the lucky members whose name was balloted and they will perform umrah this year.

The ceremony was presided over by Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, while Registrar, Raja Umar Younis, Chairman, Umrah Committee, Syed Zia Hussain Naqvi, President EWA Yasir Mahmood and other representatives participated in the event. The VC and the Registrar congratulated all the lucky winners.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood advised them to go to Madinah and offer special prayers for the development and prosperity of the country and the university in particular.

Secretary education announces bonus for teachers and head-teachers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training on Monday hosted head teachers and teachers from seven schools working under Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) here on Monday. On the occasion, the Secretary also announced a one-month bonus salary for the teachers and head-teachers present, as well as a one-time grant of Rs 100,000 for each of the seven schools to be used at the discretion of the head-teacher. As part of the Ministry's STEAM Pakistan program, the head teachers and the program's focal persons were invited to tea to celebrate these schools' commitment to improving the learning experience of their students. "From the establishment of STEAM Clubs, organising Safer sessions, encouraging students to conduct STEAM demonstrations, these schools have shown how we can transform schools just through committed teachers and head teachers."

ITA announces 10% reduction in transport fares

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA), in a bid to provide relief to commuters, on Monday announced 10% reduction in transport fares, both for inter-city and intra-city routes.

The decision was to the effect taken in a meeting held on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, following the reduction in the price of petroleum products by the government.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Waseem Ajmal announces bonus for teachers and head-teachers. The Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training hosted head teachers and teachers from 7 FDE schools today.

Virtual University organized All Pakistan Integration camp

ISLAMABAD: The Virtual University of Pakistan commenced its highly anticipated Student Integration Camp 2023 in collaboration with the Pakistan Boys Scout Association.

This exciting event was organized at the Headquarter of Pakistan Boys Scouting Association Islamabad. More than 300 students gathered for the event from all provinces of Pakistan including GB and Azad Kashmir for a memorable 5-day experience.

The Student Integration Camp offered a wide array of activities, including camping, hiking, archery, first aid training, and capturing bonfire. This unique camp not only provided students with an opportunity to connect with peers from various backgrounds but also enables them to forge connections that can be invaluable for both professional networking and personal development. To promote healthy lifestyle hiking walk along with visit to Pakistan

Monument was organised by VU for their campers.

The closing ceremony of the Student Integration Camp took place at the National Headquarters of PBSA in Islamabad.

The ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. Muhammad Junaid Jalil Khan Director General Pakistan Customs, Mr. Sohail Tajik, Deputy Director General Anti Narcotics Force Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti, the Rector of the Virtual University of Pakistan, and Mr. Sarfaraz Qamar Doha, the Chief Commissioner of PBSA. During the ceremony, Registrar VU Prof. Dr. Mohsin Javed shared his insights about the significance of the student integration camp for VU students.

Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti emphasized the importance of Scouting and its profound impact on our student in recognition of his invaluable support in organizing this remarkable event for our student community, providing all the necessary assistance required for its success.

IRSA releases 99,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 99,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 69,000 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1528.93 feet and was 130.93 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 39,300 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1212.90 feet, which was 162.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,100 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 60,400, 57,900, 50,900 and 20,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 9,700 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,800 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.



ISLAMABAD: Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese and his spouse Albana Ferrarese posing for group photo along with participants after an event by "fake Factory" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

Four high-profile absconders apprehended for serious crimes

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police successfully detained four high-profile absconders involved in serious criminal activities, police said on Monday.

As per the directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, senior police officials were assigned specific tasks to ensure the apprehension of proclaimed offenders and absconders engaged in severe criminal activities.

In adherence to these orders, the police

teams from Karachi Company, Golra, Noon, and Lohi Bher police stations collaborated to apprehend the four high-profile absconders associated with serious crimes.

The ICCPO, emphasized that the police were committed to eliminating crimes from the city, with strict actions planned for those involved in heinous crimes and illegal activities.

Ensuring the safety of citizens and their property remained the top-most priority for the Islamabad Capital Police, he emphasized.



ISLAMABAD: Director General Pakistan Customs, Mr. Muhammad Junaid Jalil Khan and Deputy Director General Anti Narcotics Force Pakistan Mr. Sohail Tajik, honored with souvenirs by Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem Bhatti, Rector of Virtual University of Pakistan, at the closing ceremony of the VU's student integration camp.