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QUETTA: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi along with Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti chairing an important law and order meeting.

No leniency or talks with terrorists; nation united to root out terrorism: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday categorically announced that the government would neither hold any talks nor show any leniency to the terrorists who were poised to disrupt the country's journey towards progress.

"The time has come to eliminate terrorism. The sacrifices being rendered for the cause will never be squandered. We need to move forward with firm resolve. There is no question of any weakness. We are open to talks with those

who believe in the supremacy of Pakistan's constitution and respect its flag. But there can be no leniency or talks with those who are enemies in the guise of friends. This is a clear message. There are no two opinions on this," the prime minister said addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him.

The prime minister began his remarks by reiterating the condemnation of the terror incidents held in different parts of the country during the last couple of

days killing dozens of citizens and the officers and personnel of the security forces.

The cabinet members also offered Fateha for the victims of terror incidents and Rana Afzaal, the brother of Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, who passed away on Monday.

The prime minister said that it was no secret that the terrorists of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) operating from Afghanistan were behind these terrorist attacks.

People of Balochistan are peaceful and patriotic: Conspiracy of weakening State through propoganda not to be let succeeded anyway: CM

Says comprehensive and methodical plan being chalked out to combat threat of terrorism

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that a comprehensive and methodical plan is being chalked out to combat threat of terrorism in the province.

He asserted that he would not let anyone succeed the conspiracy of weakening the State through propoganda on social media.

He said that the anti-State narrative is being infused through social media.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the under trainee Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) of Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) of the 51st course of National Police Academy Islamabad, here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

The participants of course are currently on study tour of Balochistan, who talked about the overall law and order situation of the province, governance and other related matters with the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister on the occasion urged the under trainee police officers to serve Pakistan in better

manner as the Allah Almighty has given them the chance to do so.

He exhorted them not to hesitate from rendering any sacrifice for the country and nation.

He said that the people of Balochistan are patriotic and peaceful. He said that Balochistan has vast area and it's circumstances are also quite difference than other provinces.

He referred to the incidents of terrorism and said that the innocent persons are targeted in these incidents.

He said that the provincial government is putting police and levies force on modern lines so that they may combat terrorism and law and order issues.

He said that the history is witness to that Allah Almighty has given honour to one who has loved Pakistan, and who ever betrayed the country, he got disgrace.

Meanwhile, the participants of course posed questions to the Chief Minister about law and order, projects initiated for welfare of the people of province and capacity building of police.

CM, Mohsin Naqvi co-chair special meeting on law & order in Balochistan: Federal & provincial Govts. agree on effective strategy for bringing sustainable peace in Balochistan

High level meeting decides to get approval of the required funds for improving security situation in province from the Apex committee; new ASPs to be appointed to meet shortage of police officers

QUETTA: The federal and provincial governments have agreed upon on devising effective strategy for bringing sustainable peace in Balochistan.

Both the governments have decided to enhance professional capacity of Balochistan police and levies in the province.

The new Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) would be appointed to remove shortage of the police officers in the province.

The Balochistan police

would be provided with modern equipment and other facilities.

These decisions were made during a high level meeting on law and order situation co-chaired by the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

The meeting attended by the provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Shah, Inspector General of Police, Abdul

Khaliq Sheikh, and other concerned high ups particularly focused on the law and order situation in backdrop of different terrorists attacks in parts of Balochistan occurred on August 25 and 26.

The meeting also decided to get approval of the required funds for improving security situation in the province from the Apex committee.

Besides the meeting also decided to increase staff and facilities in order to resolve the issues of pass-ports in Chaman.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

President for further strengthening strategic cooperation with China

Confers Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) award on Chinese

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has said that China is a trusted and great friend of



Pakistan, and both countries need to further strengthen strategic cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two sides.

He said that both countries enjoyed historic relations, spanning over seven decades, and affirmed Pakistan's resolve to stand with China in view of the changing global scenario.

The president expressed these views while talking to the visiting Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, who along with his delegation, called on him, at Aiwan-e-

Funeral prayers of martyred soldiers offered

QUETTA (INP): The funeral prayers of the security personnel who were martyred while fighting with terrorists in different areas of Balochistan were offered at F.C Headquarters in Quetta.

According to the ISPR, Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti, Commander Balochistan Corps, IGFC Balochistan (North), IG Police Balochistan and other civil and military officials participated in the funeral prayer.

After the funeral prayers, the dead bodies of the martyrs were sent to their native areas. They will be buried with full military honours.

Fourteen security personnel having fought gallantly made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced martyrdom during operations against terrorists in Balochistan.

According to ISPR, security forces killed twenty-one terrorists involved in numerous heinous attacks against innocent civilians and security personnel in Balochistan.

These cowardly acts of terrorism were aimed at disrupting the peaceful environment and development of Balochistan by targeting innocent civilians, especially in Musa Khel, Kalat and Lasbela Districts.

Mr. Justice Ejaz Swati takes oath as acting CJ BHC

QUETTA: The senior most judge of Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Ejaz Swati took oath as the acting Chief Justice of High Court here on Tuesday.

The judge of High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Kamran Mulakhail administered oath to the acting Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Ejaz Swati at a simple but impressive ceremony held at the court No. 1 of the High Court.

The oath taking ceremony was attended by the judges, Registrar of High court, judicial staff and large number of lawyers.

It may be mentioned here that the Chief Justice High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar has proceeded for abroad.



ISLAMABAD (APP): Commodore Muhammad Khalid has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect.

Rear Admiral Muhammad Khalid got commission in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1995. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi and MS Oceanography from USA, a Pakistan Navy news release on Tuesday said.

The flag officer has done various professional

Commodore M. Khalid of Pakistan Navy promoted to Rank of Rear Admiral

courses from national and international institutes. He has done Harbour and Coastal Hydrography Course from Italy, Hydrography and Meteorology Advanced Survey Course from UK, Exclusive Economic Zone Protection Officers Course from UK, Pakistan Navy Staff Course from PN War College Lahore, Naval Staff Course from South Africa and National Security and War course from National Defence University Islamabad.

Tarar urges parties to avoid politicizing terrorism

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has urged political parties to refrain from doing politics on the issue of terrorism.

Responding to a point of order in the National Assembly, he said we have respected Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur to establish a Counter Terrorism Department in the province at the earliest.

He said there should also be safe city initiatives to combat terrorism.

Attaullah Tarar also paid rich tribute to the sacrifices of the security forces and the law enforcement agencies in establishing order in the motherland.

JUI-F backs nationwide traders shutter down strike

ISLAMABAD (INP): Maulana Fazlur Rehman, leader of Jamiat Ulema Islam (F), has expressed his strong support for the nationwide traders' strike planned for August 28, citing severe economic pressures faced by the public.

In his statement, he criticized the IMF-driven budget, claiming it has significantly worsened the financial conditions of the people. He urged workers to ensure the peaceful strike's success, underscoring that it is a critical measure for alleviating public distress. Deputy Amir Ji Liaquat Baloch, has also endorsed the shutdown strike, describing it as a decisive action to address widespread dissatisfaction with high electricity costs, fuel prices, and taxes.

Cabinet approves Rs 20 b for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, Rs 1.95 b for Reko Diq security

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal cabinet to tackle the terrorist incidents across country has approved Rs20 billion for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam on Tuesday.

Held with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in chair, the cabinet meeting discussed a six-point agenda which also focused on economic and political situation of the country.

The federal cabinet also approved Rs 1.95 billion for FC Balochistan to ensure the security of the Reko Diq project.

Additionally, the cabinet reduced its expenses and approved recommendations from the Right Sizing Committee to cut costs further.

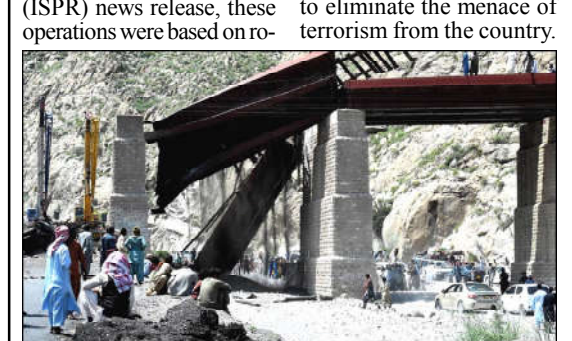
Decisions made in recent ECC meeting were also approved by the cabinet.

Four soldiers embrace martyrdom 25 terrorists including ringleader killed in Tirah valley IBOs: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): Four soldiers of Pakistan Army, amid demonstration of valour in fighting terrorists, on Tuesday embraced martyrdom while 25 khwarji were killed including ringleader Abuzar alias Saddam in different extensive intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Tirah, Khyber District against Fitna-Al-Khwarji and so called Laskar-e-Islam and Jamat-ul-Ahrar, conducted by the security forces.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, these operations were based on robust intelligence that had resulted into major setbacks to Fitna Al Khwarji and its affiliates. During these daring and highly successful IBOs being conducted since 20 August 2024, the security forces had so far successfully neutralized twenty-five Khwarji including Kharij ring leader Abuzar alias Saddam, who was killed, while eleven Khawrij were injured.

"The heavy losses inflicted upon Fitna Al Khwarji in these operations is testament to the valor and commitment of Security Forces to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.



QUETTA: A view of labour busy in work on destroys Railway Bridge.

China, US pledge support to Pakistan against terrorism

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): As the country continues to reel under back-to-back terrorist attacks, the United States and China came out in support of the country, strongly condemning the latest militant forays in Balochistan and pledging support to Pakistan in countering terrorism.

Balochistan witnessed one the deadliest attacks on Monday that left more than 50 dead, including civilians, police and military personnel in a single day.

The attacks sent shock waves across the country, drawing condemnations from the government and foreign countries.

Condemning the militant attacks, Pakistan's long-time regional ally China extended its support and expressed deep grief over the dastardly attacks in the southwestern resource-rich province, home to major China-led projects such as a port and a gold and copper mine.

Similarly, taking the

gravity of the situation into account, Washington strongly regretted the deaths of law enforcers and civilians in Balochistan's Musakhail and other areas.

"Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those killed in yesterday's attacks. The United States will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism," the US embassy in Islamabad wrote on its official X account.



QUETTA: Under trainee officers of Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) of National Police Academy Islamabad meeting with Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Balochistan attacks

Bad news keeps coming from Balochistan. Since Sunday night, in a series of coordinated militant attacks across the province, over 70 people, including security personnel, the assailants and ordinary citizens, have lost their lives.

Starting with the execution-style killing of 23 travellers in Musakhail, the terrorists blew up a railway bridge in Bolan, set several vehicles on fire at a Levis station in Mastung, and gunned down 11 people in Kalat before raiding an FC camp in Bela. This has been the most widespread assault in years. The separatist terrorist outfit BLA has claimed responsibility, maintaining that it had seized control of a big portion of the FC camp and most highways.

ISPR asserted that the security forces and law-enforcement agencies responded immediately to these criminal attacks, especially in Musakhail, Kalat and Lasbela, and killed 21 terrorists in ensuing clearance operations. However, it also said that 10 security forces soldiers and four LEAs personnel were martyred during the operation. These horrific attacks suggest that Baloch militants have intensified their violent campaign against the state and security forces. The army has vowed to bring the "instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts to justice".

Balochistan has been in turmoil for many decades. The last two decades, especially following the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti in an army operation, have seen the emergence of several armed secessionist groups. Strong evidence is said to link some of them to India and other neighbouring countries, who are opposed to the idea of a secure Pakistan.

These groups have targeted security forces, public installations, Chinese interests, unarmed Punjabi workers in Balochistan, and politicians who, as opposed to the militants, believe in a democratic struggle for the political and economic rights of the Baloch. Their violent acts and the killing of innocent people must be strongly condemned. The intensity of these attacks should put the whole country, especially its military and political guardians, on alert. That said, although kinetic action against those who target the province so mercilessly is necessary, the civil and security leadership must look deeper into the Balochistan question and identify the factors that have intensified the tension between the Baloch and the state. The reasons behind this wave of disaffection that have led young middle-class men and women to protest are well-known; they pertain to human rights violations, poor socioeconomic conditions, and the denial of political rights. These factors provide a fertile recruiting ground for terrorist groups on the lookout for angry, frustrated elements to join their ranks. The centre cannot ignore Baloch voices anymore, especially those who condemn violence and want peace and genuine efforts for change. It is only by listening to and cooperating with the people of Balochistan that the terrorists can be eliminated.

Development first?

Syed Sikander Mehdi

Even a cursory review of discussions in Pakistan on the subject suggests that a desperate search for a shortcut to development has been going on for decades. How to attain fast-paced development seems to be the main concern of policymakers and institutions, and not what kind of development and development for whom.

Enthusiasts support the idea of 'development first' and 'development at any cost'. Some suggest, directly or indirectly, that democracy and freedom can wait and a 'transitional government' — a sort of national government, a government run by technocrats, a strong autocratic government — should be established for a period of 10 to 20 years to deliver. The Chinese, Malaysian, Singaporean, South Korean, and, until recently, the Bangladeshi models of development have been cited to justify authoritarian governance and market the narrative of development without freedom.

In the case of Bangladesh, the events following the Dhaka University students' protest against the quota system in government jobs, which led to the toppling of Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's government earlier this month, clearly show that development without freedom is no guarantee of political stability and sustainable development.

Since it emerged as a sovereign country in 1971, Bangladesh has passed through many storms and evolved like a number of other post-colonial societies. Pre-1971, the eastern wing

struggled for equal rights and democracy. However, on attaining statehood, it drifted away from its cherished goals. By and large, its post-independence history remains overshadowed by authoritarian governance, mob violence, successful and unsuccessful military coups, the assassination of political leaders —

including Bangladesh's founder Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members in August 1975 and Lt-Gen Ziaur Rahman, the sixth president of Bangladesh, in May 1981 — stifling of the media, rigged elections and rampant corruption. A country created in the name of democracy, freedom, and prosperity for all ended up as a typical Third World country.

However, the long and uninterrupted autocratic rule of Sheikh Hasina Wajed from 2009 to 2024 did transform the country into a roaring economic success. Small wonder, then, that the rise of the country as one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia was noticed worldwide.

What was less noticed, however, was its medieval style of politics. The new history of Bangladesh, written on the premises of the universities, colleges and schools of Dhaka and other cities and towns, and on the streets and paddy fields of the country, has revealed that spectacular development without freedom is akin to building a gigantic building structure on a very weak foundation.

In less than a few weeks, the pyramid of power and economy was brought down by a popular uprising. This uprising was not led by any towering opposition leader, nor by the front-ranking, military-

supported Bangladesh Nationalist Party, nor by prominent social reformers and civil society leaders, including Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, who now heads the post-Hasina Wajed government. Led by little-known student leaders, this historic movement rejected the idea of development without freedom.

Amartya Sen, leading Indian economist and Nobel laureate, published an important study in 1999. This study, which is titled 'Development as Freedom', exercised considerable influence on the international discourse on development and change. In this study, he puts forward the idea that development is freedom, because it increases the freedom of choice.

The idea of development at any cost, and the Chinese, Malaysian, Singaporean, South Korean and, later, the Bangladeshi model of development, seem to have impressed many development experts and policymakers in Pakistan. The viewpoint is quite widespread that rapid development should be attained even if freedoms and rights have to be sacrificed. Being fascinated by the authoritarian brand, many pay little attention to the consequences of the rapidly spreading fascist tendencies in various societies around the world. Worse still, it is little noticed and much less appreciated that countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and US, and several others, have been enjoying sustainable development because of the blending of democracy, freedom, rule of law and development in their political, economic and social system. — Courtesy Dawn

Man and microbe

Naseem Salahuddin

The human body consists of trillions of individually living cells that breathe, fight, attack, die, rejuvenate, and replenish. The human cell is a world in itself, with a nucleus housing a DNA coil stretching out to construct protein-building enzymes, which are the building blocks of all organs. Each organ has a defined role and is responsible for its survival. The human body is a marvel of engineering and must be respected.

As an analogy, the microscopic bacterium is a single cell that, too, is a world in itself. Although it has no nucleus, it has its factory of particles whose primary function is to replicate by breaking itself into two, two into four, four into 16, and exponentially into millions — all within minutes. They inhabit our entire gut, from the mouth to the end of the five metres of convoluted intestine. The bugs live their own lives, not harming the host. But, if annoyed by unwholesome ingredients or unwanted competitors, they may revolt.

The battle between humans and microbes is an example of the arms race inherent in biological systems. If vandals threaten a household, the reaction will be to strengthen the walls and lock all entrances. If the intruders have guns, citizens will procure weapons. It is the hour of survival of the fittest.

The bacterium has comparable prowess. If the common bacterium called *Staphylococcus aureus* penetrates the skin, it may cause boils, abscesses, or septicemia, and must be destroyed with antibiotics. In the 1940s, penicillin containing a chemical ring of beta-lactam eliminated the Staph. With pro-

longed use and under pressure, the Staph started to produce an enzyme called beta-lactamase that destroyed penicillin. Scientists strengthened penicillin by adding a radical, but the resilient Staph counteracted with protein PBP2a that resisted the robust antibiotic called methicillin. The battle between Staph and methicillin continues, but Staph is coming ahead.

The same saga unfolds combat between antibiotics and the typhoid-causing *Salmonella*, the powerful *E. coli*, and its close cousins *Pseudomonas* and *Enterobacter*, that thrive in wet areas in hospitals and produce enzymes that destroy antibiotics. These tenacious bugs stick to equipment or the hands of doctors and nurses and are transmitted to sick patients, who get sicker with infection in the blood or internal organs. A few years back, infectious disease physicians could destroy bad bugs with conventional antibiotics and restore the patient's health. Today, we play Russian roulette: if the lab reports resistant bacteria, new generations of antibiotics costing Rs5,000-20,000 a day for two to four weeks in a hospital may or may not save the patient's life. No new drug molecules are in the pipeline in the world of pharmaceuticals. Treating deadly microbes is a game of thrones.

Other devious microbes that defy lifesaving drugs, like tuberculosis bacteria and fungi, invade an already weakened body and elude treatment with older drugs. Newer drugs are enormously expensive and toxic, and the humble sufferer has little choice between living and dying. As population and poverty increase in direct propor-

tion, multidrug-resistant TB is spreading more fiercely than ever to the marginalised population who can hardly afford nutritious meals and drugs at a monthly Rs20,000 for nine months or longer, in addition to frequent expensive tests.

Sadly, the trend of irrational antibiotics use by doctors originates in medical colleges, where the professor teaches in overcrowded classrooms, wards and clinics, leaving no room for arriving at logical diagnoses, and doctors are left to be brainwashed by pharmaceutical reps who promote their products, offering incentives that influence prescribing habits. Diagnostic laboratories either do not exist or are inept; roadside stores sell medicines randomly. Self-treatment, driven by the desire for quick solutions and without proper medical guidance, is another significant factor. Consequently, drug resistance is rising rapidly and poses a serious public health threat.

Addressing antimicrobial resistance requires a multifaceted approach. Antimicrobial stewardship programs in hospitals and clinics are crucial in guiding the appropriate use of antibiotics. By avoiding antibiotics against viral infections and limiting their use to treat only disease-causing bacteria, we may prolong their effectiveness for many decades.

AMR is not just an individual, local, or national issue. It is a serious global threat. We can only hope to manage and mitigate its impact through concerted action at all levels — individual, institutional, and international. As part of this global community, each of us is responsible for stanching the tide of further resistance by exercising caution in using antibiotics. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Ahsan calls for utilizing China's expertise, technology in agriculture sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister to China, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday stressed the importance of leveraging China's expertise and technological advancements in Pakistan's agriculture sector, once considered the backbone of the national economy.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting regarding the recent visit of the Prime

Minister to China, according to a news release.

During the meeting, participants discussed the possibility of sending provincial experts from the agriculture sector to China for further development and knowledge exchange.

Ahsan Iqbal said the exchange of trade delegations would help build trust between the private sectors of the two

countries, adding Pakistan would raise the issue of easing visa procedures for its entrepreneurs with the Chinese embassy.

He also mentioned that Pakistan was utilizing all available resources to ensure the safety of Chinese investors and officials.

The minister reiterated the federal government's commitment to providing all possible facilities to private

investors and taking necessary steps to remove obstacles hindering foreign investment, ensuring a conducive environment for trade and investment.

He directed the relevant authorities to complete and submit a framework for the transfer of Chinese industries to Pakistan within a week, outlining the standards and outcomes required for the quality and success of industrial sectors.



Chairman Prime Minister's Steering Committee on Gem & Stones and Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan presided over a meeting in Islamabad.



MULTAN: Farmer women busy in cutting grass in the field for their animals.

PSO reports profit of Rs. 15.9 billion in FY24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Management has also announced a dividend of PKR 10/- per share, representing a 100% payout for the financial year 2023-24.

Furthermore, PSO's subsidiary, PRL, delivered a robust performance with a profit after tax of PKR 4.1 billion and gross revenue of PKR 403.6 billion. On a consolidated basis, the group achieved a profit after tax of PKR 18.3 billion, translating to an Earnings Per Share (EPS) of PKR 39.

In the intensely competitive white oil market, the company expanded its market share to 51.6% share, exceeding its previous record and solidifying its position as the market leader.

PSX loses 486 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 486.82 points on Tuesday, showing a negative change of 0.62 percent, closing at 78,084.24 points against 78,571.06 points on the last working day.

A total of 591,511,522 shares were traded during the day as compared to 512,337,206 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 17.177 billion against Rs 18.894 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 436 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 163 of them recorded gains and 222 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 51 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 74,333,884 shares at Rs 11.57 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 47,382,319 shares at Rs.1.26 per share and Energycico PK with 43,914,580 shares at Rs 3.98 per share.

Hallmark Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.56.87 per share price, closing at Rs 625.57, whereas the runner-up was Mari Petroleum Company Limited with a Rs 50.90 rise in its per share price.

Government pledges to lead the country towards progress: Ali Pervaiz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Thursday that the government pledged its commitment to steering the country towards progress.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the government, took difficult economic measures to put the country on the right track.

He said we are making significant progress and will soon overcome the relevant issues.

Pak apparel exports to China increase by 5% in 2024

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's exports of men's and women's apparel to China have been increased by approximately five percent reaching over \$18.03 million in the first seven months of the year, said the latest data from General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in

Regarding the International Monetary Fund, the Minister said positive news is expected in the coming days.

IMF is a necessary component to pull the country out of the economic quagmire, he added.

He said the government is doing all the efforts to support low-income electricity users. The federal government has given protection up to 200 units in consultation with IMF.

Beijing, Ghulam Qadir highlighted the growing popularity of Pakistani apparel in China, attributing this trend to the superior quality and competitive pricing of the products.

He also emphasized Pakistan's strategic advantage in land trade with China, coupled with the zero-tariff benefits under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA).

Govt maintains zero tolerance policy towards power pilferage: Awais

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Tuesday reiterated that the Federal Government and the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) had maintained a zero-tolerance policy towards electricity theft and their facilitators.

Presiding over a high level meeting at Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) headquarters, he emphasized the importance of 100% recovery of dues from both government and private consumers.

He stressed that any delay in this process would not be tolerated and that the entire relief distribution would be closely monitored to ensure

transparency in this regard. Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari further highlighted that consumers were the most valuable asset of any organization, and the provision of quality and timely services, accurate meter readings, and prompt bill delivery ought to be ensured.

He also mentioned that the complete eradication of electricity theft was possible through adopting modern technology in the power sector.

PM orders to hold consultation with traders at all levels: Naem Mir

LAHORE (APP): Tajir Dost Scheme Chief Coordinator Naem Mir said on Tuesday that Prime Minister had ordered to hold consultation with traders at all levels. According to official sources, the Federal Board of Revenue Chairman had invited representatives of traders for dialogue at 3:00 pm today. He said, "We want to hold consultation with traders organizations before issuing new amended SRO."

Export of footwear increases 2.62% in July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of footwear from the country witnessed an increase of 2.62 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding last year.

The country exported footwear worth US\$ 11.793 million during July 2024 as opposed to the export of US\$ 11.491 million during July 2023, showing growth of 2.62 percent, according to the

data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among the footwear products, the exports of leather footwear witnessed a decrease of 1.24 percent, from US\$ 9.570 million to US\$ 9.452 million during the month under review.

The canvas footwear exports also decreased by 43.64 percent by going down from US\$ 0.286 million last year to US\$ 0.161 million, the PBS data revealed.

CM orders payments via Himmat Cards by September 15

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the care of deserving special persons is responsibility of the state. The CM participated in a ceremony to sign an MoU (memorandum of understanding) between Department of Social Welfare and Bank of Punjab for the issuance of Himmat Cards (ATM Cards) to 65,000 special people across Punjab, through which Rs 10,500 will be paid to them every quarter.

The chief minister directed the authorities concerned to start payment through Himmat cards by September 15. She said: "Special people are very special to us." CM Maryam Nawaz was apprised that Himmat Cards will be issued to 40,000 people in phase-I and to 25,000 people in phase-II. She was also briefed that a 30 per cent quota had been reserved for women in the issuance of Himmat Card to deserving special persons. She was briefed that a

dedicated helpline 1312 has been set up for the assistance of deserving special persons. The MoU was signed by Secretary Social Welfare Javed Akhtar Mahmood and President Bank of Punjab Zafar Masood. Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Sohail Shaikat Butt, MPA Sania Ashiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Chairman P&D Nabil Awan, DG Social Welfare Amna Munir and other relevant officers were also present.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman talking to media persons along with Traders Organization regarding countrywide shutter down strike during his visit to protest camp.

KP govt announces Rs 10 mln for families of Balochistan martyrs

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has announced a compensation amount of Rs 10 million each to the families of those martyred in recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan. The announcement was made on the directives of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to show solidarity with the people of Punjab and martyrs. Muzammil Aslam, Advisor to the Chief Minister for Finance, said that the provincial government deeply sympathizes with the families of the martyrs. He emphasized that both the

government and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who have faced the scourge of terrorism, fully understand the pain and suffering caused by such tragic incidents. He said that the party's leadership strongly condemned the terrorist attacks and expressed their sorrow and solidarity with the affected families, underscoring their commitment to stand by them during this difficult time. Muzammil Aslam said that terrorist incidents in North Waziristan have also claimed the lives of five individuals.

New Election Commissioner KP welcomed with luncheon party

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Shamshad Khan and newly appointed Provincial Election Commissioner Saeed Gul on Tuesday arranged a luncheon wherein all the officers of the Provincial Election Commissioner KP headquarters were in attendance. The KP Election Commission Officers said during the function the Provincial Election Commissioner appreciated the services of Shamshad Khan.

Two youths killed over issue in Swabi

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two youths were shot dead over a dispute in the vicinity of Yar Hussain police station in Swabi district, police informed on Tuesday. Police said the accused called the victims into an empty house and later shot them dead. The dead were identified as Jalal and Adnan, police said and added that both the victims were 22-years-old. The Yar Hussain police have registered a case on the complaint of the brother of the deceased Jalal and started investigation to nab.

SMBR says: Comprehensive flood management plan to be developed across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed highlighted the need for a detailed plan to enhance drainage infrastructure and address urban flooding from heavy rains, aiming to minimize inconvenience to residents. Presiding over a crucial meeting held at the Board of Revenue here on Tuesday, he directed all commissioners and local

governments to submit comprehensive reports regarding the statistics of union councils across Punjab. Attendees included Secretary Irrigation Wasif Khurshid, Secretary Local Government Board Rizwan Nazir, Commissioner Lahore Zaid bin Maqsood, Additional Secretary Housing and Urban Development Umar Farooq, commissioners from across Punjab.



ABBOTTABAD: Mayor of Abbottabad, Sardar Shuja Nabi exchanging views with Neil Hawkins, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan during meeting held in Abbottabad.

LHC RWP bench Court cannot issue directives on assumptions

RAWALPINDI (Online): Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf of Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench has remarked during hearing of petition against detention of deputy superintendent Adiala jail Rawalpindi the petitioner has no authentic information and the court cannot issue directives to any one on the basis of assumptions. He further remarked "The case has been registered and there is no such thing therein. Tell the court Muhammad Akram is in whose custody. The court while declaring reply of CPO Rawalpindi unsatisfactory summoned him again on

August 29. The petitioner along with her son and counsel Imaan Mazaari was present in the court during hearing of case Tuesday. The counsel for the petitioner told the court deputy superintendent is missing since August 14 and police and any other institution is not providing any information of any sort. We suspect Muhammad Akram is in the custody of intelligence agencies. The court inquired Muhammad Akram is in the custody of which agency so that the court may issue directive to some one because we can issue no directives on the basis of assumptions.

CS KP shows solidarity with martyrs families

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry on Tuesday expressed profound sympathies with families of four security personnel who embraced martyrdom during an intelligence-based operation against terrorists in Tirah valley of Khyber District.

In his message, the Chief Secretary KP expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and prayed for high places in Heaven for the souls of the martyrs. He also prayed for fortitude to the affected families to bear the loss with patience.

Two killed, three injured in traffic accident

MULTAN (APP): Two persons of the same family were killed and three others sustained injuries in a traffic accident that occurred near Kheera Chowk area of Multan, tv channels reporting Rescue sources quoted on Tuesday. According to details, a rashly driven bus hit the two wheeler near Kheera chowk area.

AJK Govt channels funds to grassroots to improve public services

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister, Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq on Tuesday highlighted the government's focus on completing development projects promptly and making funds accessible at the grassroots level to enhance public services. During a review meeting with District Officers in Kuttan Colony, Neelum Valley, the prime minister urged department heads to prioritize public service and perform their duties with dedication. He stressed that the benefits of allocated funds should reach the community. The prime minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to completing hydropower

projects in AJK within the given timeframe and assured that appointments of administrative officers would be made based on merit to promote good governance. He also highlighted plans to upgrade road infrastructure to boost tourism and create local job opportunities. The prime minister instructed the Electricity Department to improve revenue collection, noting that only 22% of residents in Neelum pay their electricity bills, despite affordable rates. He emphasized the need for community cooperation in timely payments of electricity and water bills and called for actions against defaulters.

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LAHORE: Members of Professors and Lecturers Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Lahore press club.

Gul Hasan Sheikh says Better treatment facilities should be provided to patients in time

Independent Report MIRPUR MATHELO: Better treatment facilities should be provided to the patients in time and the supply of free medicines should be ensured, Regional Director of Ombudsman Ghotki Gul Hasan Sheikh expressed these thoughts on the occasion of visiting Taluk Hospital Daharki. On the instructions of Chief Sindh Muhammad Sohail Rajput, he visited

Taluka Hospital Daharki, on this occasion, the director of ombudsman inspected the hospital medical room, X-ray machine room and other departments. They should be properly treated and properly cared for and no negligence or negligence should be done, on this occasion MS Dr. Fida Hussain Kalwar informed about the facilities available in the hospital.

International News

Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 18, including 8 children, Palestinians say

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Palestinian officials say Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 18 people, including eight children. The Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, said three children and their mother were killed in an airstrike late Monday in the Tufah neighborhood of Gaza City. It said three other people were missing after the strike. Another strike late Monday hit a building in downtown Gaza City, killing a child, three women and a man, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. In southern

Gaza, a strike on a home early Tuesday killed five people, including a man, his three children as young as 3 years old and a woman, according to a casualty list provided by Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, where the bodies were taken. Another airstrike early Tuesday flattened a home west of Khan Younis, killing at least four people, including a child, according to Nasser Hospital, where the dead were taken. Footage shared online showed residents digging through the rubble. A man carried a wounded child to an ambulance, while two others carried a dead body wrapped in a blanket.

Palestinian health officials do not say whether those killed in Israeli strikes are civilians or fighters. Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and accuses Hamas of putting them in danger by fighting in residential areas. But the military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children. Gaza's Health Ministry says Israel's offensive has killed over 40,000 people in Gaza. The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 people.



Iran's new foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, welcomes Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani ahead of their meeting in Tehran.

Zuckerberg says Biden admin pressured Meta to 'censor' Covid-19 content

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the Biden administration had pressured the company to "censor" Covid-19 content during the pandemic, apparently referring to White House requests to take down misinformation about the coronavirus and vaccines. In a letter dated Aug 26, Zuckerberg told the US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee

that he regretted not speaking up about this pressure earlier, as well as other decisions he had made as the owner of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp around removing certain content. In July 2021, President Joe Biden, a Democrat, said social media platforms like Facebook "are killing people" for allowing misinformation about coronavirus vaccines to be posted on its platform.

Taliban promise to enforce morality law 'gently'

Monitoring Desk KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban authorities said on Monday a recently ratified morality law would be enforced "gently", after the international community and Afghans voiced concern over new restrictions. Women must cover completely and not raise their voices in public, according to a 35-article law announced on Wednesday by the justice ministry. It imposes wide-ranging stipulations from behaviour to dress and social interactions.

No intention to increase ME tensions, says Iran

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran does not seek to increase Middle East tensions, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani, adding that its response to the killing of the Hamas chief in Tehran would be "definite and calculated". Iran blames Israel for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on July 31, which Araqchi was quoted by Iran's state media as saying was "an unforgivable violation of Iran's security and sovereignty".

Russian attacks on Ukraine kill 5 in second day of major strikes

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russia launched missile and drone attacks targeting scores of Ukrainian regions and killing at least five people, officials said on Tuesday, a day after Moscow's biggest air attack of the war on its neighbour. Two people were killed when a hotel was "wiped out" by a missile in the central city of Kryvyi Rih, regional officials said. Three died in drone attacks on the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday that Kyiv would retaliate against Russia for its attacks. He asked allies to consider joint air defence operations and provide long-range capabilities after Russia pummeled Ukrainian energy infrastructure

with more than 200 missiles and drones on Monday. During Tuesday's attack, Ukraine downed five out of 10 incoming missiles and 60 out of 81 drones, the air force said. The Ukrainian air force lost track of 10 more drones that have likely come down somewhere on its territory, it said. It said that one more crossed into Belarusian territory; 10 more were still flying around in Ukraine's airspace on Tuesday morning. The Russian defence ministry said its forces had carried out a high-precision weapon strike on Ukraine overnight, the Interfax news agency reported. Moscow denies targeting civilians since launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, although thousands have been killed.

UN forced to halt humanitarian operations in Gaza

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations said on Monday it had been forced to halt its humanitarian operations in Gaza due to a new Israeli evacuation order for the Deir al-Balah area, a senior UN official said. "We are not operating today. As of this morning, we're not operating in Gaza," the official said, adding that since the start of the war the UN has sometimes had to "delay or take a pause." "This is not a decision that we're saying we're stopping to operate, but practically we cannot operate," the official said. According to the official, the UN "had relocated most of our personnel in our operations" to Deir al-Balah following a Rafah evacuation order several months ago. The Israeli military had told people on Sunday to "evacuate immediately". "We need to find

solutions," the UN official said. "And if it means that we need to anchor down for 24-48 hours and reset, we do that. But we're not leaving." "Right now the challenge is to find a place where we can reset and effectively operate." Israel's military struck the Gaza Strip on Monday a day after truce talks in Cairo coincided with a major but brief cross-border escalation involving Hezbollah in Lebanon. In the latest flare-up between Israel and Hamas-ally Hezbollah, the Lebanese group on Sunday launched rockets and drones in retaliation for a top commander's killing as Israel carried out air raids the military said thwarted a larger attack. Israel swiftly revoked a state of emergency declared early on Sunday, and Hezbollah said its operation was "completed".

Iran's supreme leader opens door to negotiations with United States over Tehran's nuclear program

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader opened the door Tuesday to renewed negotiations with the United States over his country's rapidly advancing nuclear program, telling its civilian government there was "no barrier" to engaging with its "enemy." Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks set clear red lines for any talks taking place under the government of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and renewed his warnings that America wasn't to be trusted. But his comments mirror those around the time of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Tehran's nuclear program greatly curtailed in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Yet it remains unclear just how

much room Pezeshkian will have to maneuver, particularly as tensions remain high in the wider Mideast over the Israel-Hamas war. "We do not have to pin our hope to the enemy. For our plans, we should not wait for approval by the enemies," Khamenei said in a video broadcast by state television. "It is not contradictory to the same enemy in some places, there's no barrier." Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, also warned Pezeshkian's Cabinet, "Do not trust the enemy." Khamenei, 85, has occasionally urged talks or dismissed them with the U.S. after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the deal.

India's green energy wind drive hits desert herders hard

Monitoring Desk JAISALMER: Whirring wind turbines in India's Thar desert supply critical green energy for the world's most populous nation, but those living in their shadows say it comes at their expense. It illustrates the hard balance faced as India, the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter, scrambles to boost its non-fossil fuel capacity to stem the rising impacts of climate change. The big companies have come here and built the windmills, but they're useless to us," said 65-year-old livestock herder Nena Ram, describing an age-old farming system upended by the giant turbines.

Indian police fire teargas at hundreds protesting over Kolkata doctor's rape, murder

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Police in India fired teargas and water cannon to disperse hundreds of protesters marching in the eastern city of Kolkata on Tuesday to demand the resignation of a top state minister in the wake of a gruesome rape and murder of a trainee doctor. Protesters led by university students broke through the iron barricades set up on the route of their march to the West Bengal state secretariat, television footage showed, resulting in a baton charge by the po-

lice, who had earlier declared the protest illegal. The August 9 attack on the 31-year-old doctor has caused nationwide outrage, similar to the widespread protests witnessed after a 2012 gang-rape of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in New Delhi, with campaigners saying women continue to suffer from high levels of sexual violence despite tougher laws. A police volunteer has been arrested for the crime and the federal police have taken over the investigation.

Ishaq Dar says: No one allowed to perpetrate violence in name of nationality

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the House, in the Senate, Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said that no one could be allowed to perpetrate violence in the name of nationality as Balochistan is an essential part of Pakistan and the Parliament must collectively devise a way forward to overcome prevailing unrest in the province. Speaking on the recent terrorist incidents in Balochistan, he said that every Pakistani was sad over the bloody violence and the matter was discussed in detail in the cabinet, adding the interior minister had reached Balochistan to examine the ground situation while Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif would visit Balochistan to review the law and order situation within two days. Ishaq called for the in-

depth happening of the issue and suggested to form a committee of the House to probe the matter.

The Leader of the House further stated that the State had collectively adopted the policy of operation of Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasad to counter the terrorism after the Army Public School attack in 2013 and law and order situation improved but unfortunately during the recent past the terrorist brought back and released from jails resultantly increase in crimes and terrorist attacks. The senator added that there was a need to think above the politics of Pakistan and resolve the country's problems being faced. He seconded the resolve of Chief Minister Balochistan that no one could be allowed to carry out violence in the name of nationality.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Nausherwani meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Senate Opposition demands update on Balochistan situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of Opposition in Senate, Shibli Faraz on Tuesday demanded the government of a briefing over the prevailing law and order situation in Balochistan in the wake of recent terror incidents. The 342nd Senate session commenced with Deputy Chairman, Senate, Syedaal Khan Nasar in chair as the House offered fateha for the deceased who lost their lives in Balochistan incidents. Senator Kamran Murtaza of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (JUIP) led the prayer.

Senator Shibli Faraz said the situation in Balochistan needed to be addressed through effective measures and the government should take the House into confidence on the matter. He emphasized the need for conducive environment in the province to attract investments, and improve stability. The Opposition Leader also regretted the delay in production orders of the detained Senator Ejaz Chaudhry of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. He demanded the government to probe the incidents and address the issues of Balochistan on priority. Minister for Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar said during the previous regime, selective use of production orders' law was employed. However, he said, Senator Ejaz Chaudhry was arrested in many cases registered under criminal procedure laws and under judicial custody as per the court orders.



Civil and military dignitaries visiting PNS YARMOOK at Muscat, Oman.

Zehri, Gichki visit various project sites in Hub district

Independent Report HUB: Advisor to the Chief Minister for Industries Mir Ali Hassan Zehri and Secretary Industries & PHE Imran Gichki visited various project sites in Hub district to review the progress and development of industrial projects in the area. During their visit, they inspected the sites of different projects, including the Hub Industrial Estate, and held meetings with concerned officials to discuss the pace of work and address any issues hindering the progress. The visit aimed to ensure timely completion of projects and provide necessary support to boost industrial growth in the region.

Secretary Info stresses need to provide facilities to male & female students in sports sector

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Information Department, Imran Khan has stated that there's least representation of the province in sports sector, so there is a need to provide necessary facilities and opportunities to the male and female students in this sector so as to fill the gap. The Secretary Information was speaking on occasion of the inauguration of girls throw-ball coaching camp set up by the Balochistan Throw Ball Association here on Tuesday. The Secretary said that the participation of female students in sports of modern era other than is welcoming. He said that the government would ensure every possible steps to motivate students for taking part in the sports and ex-



tra-curricula activities. The female students would be provided necessary opportunities so that they may represent the province at the national and international level. Also present on the occasion were the Secretary of Throw ball Association, Naecem Akhtar, Technical Director, Manzoor Sarpara, Chief Coach, Kamran Siddiqui, Coordinator



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Pakistan believes in power of digital inclusion: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday said that Pakistan believes in the power of digital inclusion, where technology catalyzes equitable and sustainable growth. The partnership between HEC, PERN, and APAN will help create a vibrant community, he said while addressing the 58th Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) meeting.

He commended the Asia Pacific Advanced Network, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and the Pakistan Education and Research Network for their efforts in advancing technological collaboration across the region. Chairman Senate said that over 50% of the population in our region still lacks access to the internet thus hindering true progress and development. He said that our challenges and opportunities are increasingly interconnected, requiring a unified and collective re-

sponse, however, the way forward lies in pooling our resources, enhancing synergies and building robust partnerships. He observed that in the realm of cyber security, Pakistan is aware of the critical importance of safeguarding the digital infrastructure. "As cyber threats continue to escalate globally, with a 38% increase in cyber-attacks in 2023 alone, we are taking proactive measures to strengthen our cyber security", he remarked.

Highlighting the significance of green technology, he also expressed Pakistan's dedication to promoting eco-friendly innovations that balance technological advancement with responsibility to protect the planet for future generations. Referring to the active role of the legislature, the Chairman Senate apprised the participants that Pakistan's Parliament, particularly the Senate, remains steadfast in its com-

mitment to advancing technological growth as a cornerstone of national progress. "Our focus is on shaping policies that promote innovation, build digital infrastructure, and support research initiatives across the country" he stated. The legislative efforts, he observed, are designed to create a robust framework that supports the development of cutting-edge technologies while ensuring that the rights and privacy of our citizens are protected.

He said that our journey toward becoming a paperless chamber is well underway, with significant steps being taken to digitize all processes. This shift aims to ensure that our work is more transparent, efficient, and accessible. He informed that steps have been taken to develop internal digital communication mechanisms, including the creation of a comprehensive dashboard.



QUETTA: President National Party, MP Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

Pak-Oman BPC review bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 8th session of Pakistan-Oman Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) held in Muscat on Tuesday comprehensively reviewed all aspects of bilateral cooperation including political relations, trade and investment, security and defence, culture, health and consular matters. Additional Foreign Secretary (Middle East), Ambassador Shehryar Akbar Khan and the Chief of GCC and Regional Neighborhood Department, Ambassador Sheikh Ahmad bin Hashil bin Rashid Al Maskari of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, led their respective sides, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. The BPC also discussed Pakistan-Oman cooperation at multilateral fora. Noting the importance of Joint Ministerial Commission, the two sides

agreed to hold the 8th session at an early date in Islamabad. The two sides also agreed to further elevate bilateral trade volume and to enhance investment cooperation. The Omani side was invited to invest in agriculture, minerals and Information Technology under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). The Omani side expressed support for the First Pakistani Business Expo to be held in Muscat on 13-14 October 2024. It also welcomed Pakistan's decision to give visas on arrival to Omani nationals. Regional and global matters of mutual concern were also discussed. Additional foreign secretary (Middle East) appreciated the Sultanate of Oman for its persistent and principled support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP) Central Leader, Ghulam Nabi Marri addresses during the 18th death anniversary of Shaheed Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, held in Quetta.

Step afoot to provide health facilities in district Kohlu: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kohlu Aqil Karim Baloch on Tuesday said that several measures were being taken to provide healthcare facilities to the people at the district headquarters hospital. He expressed these views while visiting the district headquarters hospital Kohlu. The DC also inspected to different wards of DHQ and checked the attendance of paramedical staff. He also inquired about the health of patients and the provision of medical facilities. The DC was briefed regarding the district head-

quarters hospital and its matters by the concerned doctor. Expressing his satisfaction on the presence of paramedical staff, he said that district administration was striving to provide basic amenities including quality health facilities to people on timely in the area. He also assured paramedical staff that he would take possible steps to address their issues in order to improve the quality of health services for the patients. Meanwhile, DC Karim Baloch also inspected Levies Check post at Tumpoo Cross and examined the attendance of the Levies personnel.

President calls for addressing Balochistan's security challenges

PM for identification, strict action against terrorists involved in Balochistan's incidents

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday stressed upon taking of all possible steps to improve security situation in Balochistan and called for effective measures for complete elimination of terrorists. The president expressed these views during a meeting with Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti who called on him to discuss the security and law and order situation in the province, President Secre-

tariat Press Wing said in a press release. The meeting was briefed on the recent incidents of terrorism in Balochistan and discussed proposals for maintaining law and order in the province. Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed for taking of all possible steps to improve law and order situation in Balochistan province, besides identification of terrorists and initiation of strict action against them.

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti called on the prime minister to brief him on the security and overall situation in the province, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister said that yesterday's terrorist attacks in Balochistan were cowardly acts which could not be justified, adding the brave security forces foiled the designs of terrorists by sacrificing their lives.



NASEERABAD: A large number of local people, including the commander of FC 72 Wing, Colonel Malik Muhammad Siddique, along with senior civil and military officials, attend the funeral prayer of the Ghulam Muhammad Qum Khosa, a brave FC personnel, martyred in the war against the enemies of the country in Bolan area was buried with full military honors in his native Goth Nasruddin Khosa.

War against terrorism is war of every Pakistani: Interior Minister assures every possible cooperation for peace in Balochistan

Chief Minister Balochistan maintains handful elements involved in terrorism; steps being taken to ensure law and order in province

Independent Report QUETTA: The Federal Minister Interior, Mohsin Naqvi has assured to the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti that the federal government would extend every possible cooperation to the provincial government for establishing peace in the province. The Federal Interior Minister was in meeting with the Chief Minister here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday. Mohsin Naqvi

reached Quetta to overview the law-and-order situation in the province particularly in backdrop of certain terrorism incidents and attacks in different parts of the province. They paid rich tributes to those martyred in different terrorism incidents and offered fateha for the departed souls of martyrs. Speaking to the Chief Minister, Federal Minister strongly condemned the incidents of terrorism in the province. He expressed solidarity with the bereaved families of those martyred in the incidents of terrorism. Mohsin Naqvi said that the war against terrorism is the war of every Pakistani. The Chief Minister on the occasion said that handful of miscreants are involved in terrorism in Balochistan. However, more steps are being taken to ensure law and order situation in the province, he maintained.

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NP announces support for shutter down strike

Independent Report KECH: The district spokesperson for National Party Kech issued a statement saying that the party fully supports the shutter down strike called by the Central and Provincial Traders Association and the Makran Union on August 28. The spokesperson said that the recent artificial electricity crisis in Makran has caused immense suffering for the people and has completely paralyzed the business community. Therefore, the party supports the complete shutter down strike against inflation, electricity crisis, and taxes.

Secretary refuses to disclose IPP contracts in senate committee hearing

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Secretary of Water and Power has declined to present contracts with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) during a Senate committee meeting, sparking concerns over transparency. The Senate Functional Committee on Devolution, chaired by Senator Zarqa Taimoor, held a session to discuss the IPP agreements. The committee chair questioned the Secretary about the details of these contracts and the payments made to the IPPs. "We cannot nourish IPPs: Hafiz Naem" LAHORE (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman while announcing to make strike success has said we cannot nourish IPPs. "If IPPs forego annual capacity charges then bills will be reduced, he said this while addressing protest camp of traders on Hall Road Lahore. The costly bills have ruined national economy and industry. Claiming about shares of Sharif family in IPPs he said we cannot upbring IPPs. Today historical strike will be observed in the country.

Gwadar faces collective punishment as government fails to provide electricity

Independent Report GWADAR: The district Alliance Gwadar has expressed concern over the prolonged electricity crisis in the region, stating that the government has failed to provide electricity to the people. The alliance criticized the government for its inability to address the issue, despite claims of progress. They argued that the people of

Gwadar are being collectively punished and that the government's promises have proven to be false. The alliance demanded that the government provide electricity from the national grid, citing the presence of power generation projects in the region. However, KESC officials expressed helplessness, citing the long transmission line as a major obstacle.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani addresses during the inaugural ceremony as chief guest of 58th Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) Meeting held in Islamabad.

Journalist Bachal Ghancho assassinated in Mirpur Mathelo

Our Correspondent MIRPUR MATHELO: Unidentified armed men shot and killed journalist Bachal Ghancho in the Raunti area of Mirpur Mathelo. Ghancho, a representative of a private news channel, was attacked while on his way to his agricultural land. He was shot multiple times and died on the spot. His body was

shifted to the Taluka Hospital in Ubauro for necessary procedures and later handed over to his heirs. The incident sparked outrage among journalists, who staged a protest and sit-in outside the SSP Mirpur Mathelo office, demanding the arrest of those involved in the murder. Journalist leaders, including Azam Sohriani, Latif Laghari,

National Party delegation meets DG Fisheries

Independent Report GWADAR: A delegation of the National Party, led by Provincial Fisheries Secretary Adam Qadurbakhsh, met with Director General Fisheries Balochistan Imran Bangulzai. The delegation included senior National Party leaders Muejeb Abdullah Abdul Qadir Baloch and Omar Kalanchi. The delegation apprised the Director General of the issues faced by fishermen,

stating that with the start of the season, trawlers from Sindh have entered the Balochistan sea, causing damage to marine life and threatening the livelihoods of local fishermen. They demanded increased patrols, arrest of illegal trawlers, and establishment of new fisheries stations in various areas to prevent illegal fishing. The delegation emphasized that 90% of the local population's liveli