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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-Sadr on Tuesday, President Secretariat Press Wing said

in a press release.

Welcoming the Chinese commander, the president underscored the need for further enhancing military and defence cooperation, people-to-people contacts, and cultural linkages to bring the two countries further closer.

He said that Pakistan was encouraging the learning of the Chinese language which would greatly help promote people-to-people ties.

Earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon General Li Qiaoming in recognition of his meritorious services rendered towards enhancing defence cooperation between Pakistan and China, during a special investiture ceremony held, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



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

No leniency or talks with terrorists; nation united to root out terrorism, says 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 Fataha 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.

The government has sensitised the Afghan government on the subject and also taken effective actions against them, he added.

Referring to the killing of passengers in Balochistan on Monday, he said such incidents could not terrorize the people.

"Such unholy designs are just meant to impede the country's progress, ongoing CPEC projects in Balochistan and undermine the relationship between Pakistan and China," he remarked.

He told the cabinet members that the government had assured to provide all-out resources to the armed forces to fight out the terrorists and that the Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and the armed forces personnel were determined to purge this scourge.

"Inshallah, their nefarious designs will be foiled, provided we identify our enemies and forge unity to eliminate them," he urged.

Calling the recent terror incidents a "moment of reflection", Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated there was no room for terrorists in the country.

He announced that he would visit Balochistan very soon to hold in-depth deliberations on the situation and decide on immediate measures.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed that in view of the larger national interests, all ministers and institutions should take all possible decisions and initiatives that could save each penny of the nation.

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): Four soldiers of Pakistan Army, amid demonstration of valour in fighting terrorists, on Tuesday embraced martyrdom while 25 khawarij were killed including ringleader Abuzar alias Saddam in different extensive intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Tirah, Khyber District against Fitna-Al-Khawarij 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 Khawarij 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 Khawarij including Kharij ring leader Abuzar alias Saddam, who was killed, while eleven Khawarij were injured.

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

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday appreciated the security forces for their successful intelligence-based operation against Fitna al-Khawarij in District Khyber. The president said that the security forces, with display of valour, had sent terrorists to hell. He further paid tribute to Jawans on embracing martyrdom during the operation, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The president said that the operations would continue till the complete elimination of terrorism.



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

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-Fasaad 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.



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

Pakistan believes in power of digital inclusion: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 response, 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.

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.

A spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry said at a regular press briefing on Tuesday that Beijing strongly condemns the attacks in Pakistan and will continue to give strong support to the country in anti-terrorism action.

"China stands firm against all forms of terrorism. We will continue giving staunch support to Pakistan in its effort to advance counter-terrorism operations, uphold social solidarity and stability, and protect the safety of the

people," Lin Jian said. He reaffirmed China's readiness to enhance counter-terrorism and security cooperation with Pakistan further and jointly safeguard peace and security in the region.

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: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi along with Sarafraz Ahmad Bugti, Chief Minister Balochistan talking to media persons during press conference in Quetta.

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

Independent Report 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.

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

Similarly, it was decided that stern action would be taken by FIA for prevention of anti-state activities and propaganda on social media.



LAHORE: Funeral prayer of Captain Muhammad Ali Qureshi Shaheed, who embraced martyrdom during terrorist attacks in different areas of Balochistan, were offered with full military honours, at Lahore Garrison.

Martyred soldiers laid to rest with full military honours

RAWALPINDI (Agencies): The valiant soldiers of Pakistan Army, who were martyred in various terror attacks in Balochistan, were laid to rest with full military honours in their respective native areas.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), their funeral prayers and burial were attended by senior Pakistan Army officials, soldiers, the martyrs' family members, and a large number of local dignitaries.

It is pertinent to mention that these soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice while bravely fighting with terrorists in various areas of Balochistan on 25th and 26th of this month. These martyrs include Naik Abdul Majid Shaheed, Sepoy Muhammad Saqlain Shaheed, Sepoy Zeeshan Ullah Shaheed, Sepoy Muhammad Shahryar Shaheed, Sepoy Ghulam Muhammad Shaheed, and Sepoy Zakir Khan Shaheed.

Pakistan's security forces remain steadfast and resolute in their commitment to thwart any efforts aimed at undermining peace, stability, and development in Balochistan. The sacrifices of our martyrs will never be in vain.



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

Senate passes ICT local govt. Amendment Bill 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Tuesday passed the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2024 as the Opposition benches voted against the bill.

The 342nd Senate session chaired by Chairman, Yousaf Raza Gilani carried out the legislative business.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar presented the Bill on behalf of Minister for Interior, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi.

Senator Tarar said that a unanimous report was being presented by the Standing Committee on the Bill and it was decided among the members of the opposition and treasury benches in the Advisory Committee of the Senate for the passage of the legislation.

Opposition Leader Shibli Faraz emphasized the importance of detailed deliberations on the Bill before its approval.

He highlighted that the Senate should thoroughly review, debate, and assess the Bill, in accordance with constitutional and parliamentary norms, despite its passage in the National Assembly. On the occasion, Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani directed the treasury benches to send such legislation to the Committee concerned first as per the law, however since the matter was decided in the advisory committee, the Opposition should be allowed to present its considerations on the floor of the House.

The Chairman also welcomed the 38-member delegation of the Youth Parliament Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in the visitors' gallery.

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 toward 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 Councillor 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, Gulam 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.

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."

He assured full support of the Federal Government, the Ministry of Energy, and Law Enforcement Agencies to the IESCO in this regard.

He instructed IESCO CEO Muhammad Naem Jan to ensure the immediate delivery of the relief of Rs 14 per unit announced by the Punjab government to domestic 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.

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.

He stressed that the benefits of allocated funds should reach the community. The prime minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to completing hydropower



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.

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.

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 Sarfraz Bugti who called on him to discuss the security and law and order situation in the province, President Secretary 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 Sarfraz 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.



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Senate body calls for increased accountability and transparency in national federations and IPPs

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Functional Committee on Devolution, chaired by Senator Dr. Zarqa Suhrawardy Taimur, convened today at the Parliament House.

The Secretary of the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) briefed the Committee on the number of employees and the attached departments of the Ministry, as well as the details of the sports federations registered with the Pakistan Sports Board. He also provided an overview of the Ministry's human resources, including both sanctioned and currently working officers. Additionally, the Secretary reported that 64% of Pakistan's population is under 30 years old, yet this demographic remains unrecognized, despite significant budget allocations yielding unsatisfactory results.

Senator Dr. Zarqa pointed out the omission of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) from the discussion. She questioned who would oversee the PCB's affairs given its current performance and requested a list of federation chairpersons and the duration of their service.

According to the details, Iman Khan from Peshawar, representing Gricks International, was recognized for her innovative approach in producing building materials from recycled plastic, re-purposing plastic bottles into bricks for reconstructing homes in flood-affected areas, and addressing both housing needs and environmental concerns.

US Embassy awards \$20,000 in seed funding to women entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) Embassy has awarded \$20,000 as seed funding to women entrepreneurs, participating in its Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) programme.

The winners were selected through a pitch competition, which marked the final activity for the 2024 cohort of AWE participants. The grants are intended to support the growth and development of their businesses.

According to the details, Iman Khan from Peshawar, representing Gricks International, was recognized for her innovative approach in producing building materials from recycled plastic, re-purposing plastic bottles into bricks for reconstructing homes in flood-affected areas, and addressing both housing needs and environmental concerns.

Alishba Sajid from Rawalpindi, representing Cardana Utensils, received funding for her initiative to create eco-friendly, biodegradable plates and utensils as a sustainable alternative to plastic products.

Sahar Munir from Quetta was awarded for her delivery app 'QuickUp' which provides fair and affordable delivery services specifically for women-led businesses in Balochistan.

In addition to these top winners, the US Embassy awarded honorable mentions to Sana Rehman from Quetta, who is addressing a significant healthcare gap in Balochistan through her Physiotherapy Clinic in Khanozai, and Zarmina Sanam from Lahore, whose company, Skill2Success, offers hands-on learning experiences in robotics, coding, and Artificial Intelligence for students aged 5-18.

The AWE programme is designed to equip enterprising women with the knowledge, networks, and resources needed to launch and scale successful businesses. This year's cohort included 100 aspiring and established women entrepreneurs who participated in a three-month online entrepreneurship course developed by the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University. Participants also received mentoring from established Pakistani women entrepreneurs and built a strong support network.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani presiding over a Senate House Business Advisory Committee meeting at Parliament House.

BISP introduces new banking model to ensure transparency in payments: Rubina Khalid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Tuesday said that a new banking model has been introduced for the transparent payment of funds to deserving women.

This new banking model has been introduced to ensure transparency in payments of funds following the instructions of the President Asif Ali Zardari. Senator Rubina Khalid was speaking while giving a briefing to the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on ongoing and newly introduced initiatives under the program.

She explained that BISP management is consulting with the State Bank of Pakistan to minimize human intervention, ensuring that women receive their funds without any deductions.

Senator Rubina Khalid mentioned that savings accounts are being opened for deserving women through the BISP Savings Scheme, allowing aid money to be directly transferred into their accounts.

She also highlighted a new initiative under BISP, which involves a skill development program for deserving women and their family members. This program will provide training in technical skills according to international standards, enabling them to improve their quality of life and contribute to the country's economy.

She expressed that this initiative would help them graduate from poverty, thereby allowing more deserving families to benefit from the program.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor KP, Faisal

Karim Kundi, stated that the BISP is the largest social safety net aimed at the welfare of the poor in Pakistan.

He emphasized the need to establish BISP offices at the Union Council level to enhance public services.

He also suggested deploying mobile registration vans in remote areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to ensure that deserving women are registered in the program.

Kundi highly appreciated the skill development program and noted that it would promote human resource development, providing employment opportunities abroad for those who complete the training.

He also emphasized the importance of an awareness campaign to highlight the positive impact of the BISP.

Ayaz pays tribute to brave security forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Tuesday paid rich tribute to the security forces for eliminating 25 terrorists during the operation against Fitna-ul-Khawarij in the Tirah Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Speaker also honored the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the operation. He expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the families of the martyrs.

"The security forces and the people of Pakistan are resolute in eliminating the scourge of terrorism from the country," he said.

"The brave personnel of our armed forces have been fighting the terrorists

courageously, and they will continue to eliminate them."

He said that terrorists are the enemies of humanity and are fearful of Pakistan's development and prosperity.

He underscored that the sacrifices made by the brave personnel of the armed forces will never allow terrorists to succeed in their nefarious designs.

"The sacrifices of the martyrs and the courage of their families will always be remembered in history with golden words," he added.

The Speaker prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks and solace and patience for the bereaved families.

Parliamentarian women laud development work in ICG F/11-3

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation comprising of parliamentarians Madam Asia Ishaque and Madam Rana Ansar on Tuesday visited ICG F-11/3 and expressed their delight and satisfaction upon witnessing the developmental work in public schools. During their visit, the parliamentarians commended the role of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFE PT) in driving positive change in the education sector. They also appreciated the initiatives taken by Federal Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, which have contributed significantly to the improvement of schools.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Islamic Ideology Council Dr. Allama Raghbi Naemi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

AG seeks two or three days more from IHC in case of recovery of 2 missing brothers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Attorney General (AG) has sought time two to three days from Islamabad High Court (IHC) in recovery of two missing brothers of PTI leader Azhar Mashwani.

AG has requested the court two to three days more to be given and heard news will come. Some more time will be needed. Government is doing its job.

He told the matter of missing citizens has been put before Prime Minister (PM). It is hoped positive news will come. The court disposed of the recovery petition on return of Faizan, employee in PTI secretariat.

The court also adjourned for hearing the petition regarding recovery of Naeem Ahmad Yasin till Friday.

The case pertaining to two missing brothers of PTI leader Azhar Mashwani came up for hearing Tuesday in the court.

During the hearing of the case Babar Awan said AG had filed a report in Supreme Court (SC). AG is saying today what he has said this earlier too.

AG said the matter has been brought into the knowledge of PM. One missing worker returned after this. All the job is being done in accordance with spirit of this court.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Amir Farooq remarked we fix this case till Friday. The court was told missing Faizan has returned. AG has sought more time. AG told the matter of missing citizens has been put up before PM. The plea of AG seeking more time is accepted.

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

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 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 Eco-

nomics 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 University Islamabad.

The Admiral has an illustrious naval career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments. His major Command appointments include, Commanding Officer (Dredging Vessel) BEHR KUSHA, Commanding Officer Survey Vessel (SV) BEHR PALMA and Commanding Pakistan Naval Academy. In recognition of his meritorious service, the Admiral was awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military).



ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan's Ambassador Khazar Farhadov called on Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan.

Azerbaijan envoy, Rana discuss exploring avenues in education, culture, sports

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov called on Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on exploring collaborative avenues in education, culture, and sports, with both sides expressing keen interest in enhancing bilateral relations through youth-centric initiatives.

During the meeting, Chairman Rana Mashood outlined the vision of the PMYP, which is committed to empower Pakistani youth through various initiatives aimed at enhancing their skills, education, and

cultural exposure. He emphasized the importance of technical education, stating, "The incumbent government places a strong emphasis on equipping our youth with technical skills that are essential for their personal growth and the nation's economic development. Our goal is to prepare them to compete on an international level."

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov responded by acknowledging the pivotal role of youth as an invaluable asset for both nations.

He emphasized the need for continued collaboration between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, particularly in fields that directly impact the younger genera-

Earthquake hits Swat

ISLAMABAD (APP): An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale struck Swat and neighboring regions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday. According to a private news channel, the quake's epicenter was located near the border of Tajikistan and Afghanistan, at a depth of 110 kilometers.

Heavy rainfall, strong winds hit Sakrand, causing damage to crops

Independent Report SAKRAND: A two-day spell of heavy rainfall and strong winds has hit Sakrand city and its surrounding areas, including Sabu Rahu, Majid Kario, Pano Khal, Chandio, Dalel, Dero Morio, Lakhumari, Jhalabani, and Mehrabpur.

The rainfall has caused water to accumulate in low-lying areas, villages, and fields, resulting in damage to crops. The strong winds have also disrupted electricity supply, leaving the area without power. The heavy rainfall has made it difficult for residents to move around, and the waterlogged fields have raised concerns among farmers about the impact on their crops.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Senator Rubina Khalid briefs Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on BISP's newly launched initiatives at BISP headquarters.

AJK PM announces major development plans for Neelum Valley

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has highlighted the government's commitment to enhancing the development and prosperity of Neelum Valley, a region known for its stunning natural beauty.

Speaking at an event organized by the Neelum Bar Association on Tuesday, the AJK PM revealed that a substantial budget has been allocated for

the area including 1.5 billion rupees for the construction of the Neelum highway.

He emphasized the government's determination to improve the lives of local residents and provide relief to the common people.

To enhance healthcare services, Chaudhry Anwar announced the posting of three specialist doctors at the District Headquarters Hospital in the region.

He also expressed the government's commitment

to infrastructure development and the improvement of educational institutions. He stressed the importance of citizen responsibility and working within constitutional boundaries.

During the event, the AJK PM also pledged a grant of one million rupees to the Neelum Bar Association and announced efforts to establish legal chambers and housing colonies for lawyers throughout Azad Kashmir.

IG reviews performance of Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi held a meeting with Safe City officers at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that the meeting was attended by Safe City Islamabad senior police officers, IT team and technical team. He reviewed the ongoing mea-

sure for the renewal of Safe City and its performance. During the meeting, he assessed the performance of the Safe City public service delivery and other ongoing projects.

Moreover, IGP Islamabad assigned the technical staff tasks to upgrade the software used in Safe City, develop new software, and handle other new tasks.

He said that the cameras equipped with artificial intelligence capabilities in Safe City Islamabad should be increased, Safe City data protection should be ensured, and the capabilities of the Islamabad Police's Cyber Crime Wing

Aleem Khan condemns terrorism incidents in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has strongly condemned the recent terrorism incidents and target killing in Balochistan.

In a press statement, the minister expressed strong reaction on the killings of citizens belonging to Punjab and said that Pakistan is a state consisting upon four units which cannot be thrown into the fire of terrorism in the name of color, caste and provincialism. He added that target killing by the enemies of peace and destroying the law and order situation in the country cannot be tolerated in any way, dividing the motherland into pieces through provincial hatred is a deep conspiracy against the state of Pakistan.

Abdul Aleem Khan expressed firm determination that such elements will not be allowed to succeed and now it is necessary,

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,

Five workers killed in Humak building collapse

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least five workers lost their lives on Tuesday when the roof of an under-construction building collapsed in the Humak area of Islamabad.

According to police, rescue teams promptly reached the scene soon after the incident, successfully saving two workers trapped under the rubble, reported a private news channel. Rescue efforts are on-

going to rescue one worker still trapped beneath the debris. Rescue sources have identified the deceased workers as four individuals from Tuansa Sharif and one from the Malir area of Karachi. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Memon, has taken notice of the tragic incident and ordered an inquiry to determine the cause of the collapse.