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ASHGABAT: President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with Heads of States/Governments/Parliaments participating in the International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development."

22 labourers killed, seven injured in terrorism attack in Duki coalmines

No justification of attacking innocent mine labourers busy in earning livelihood: Governor

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 in the mining of coal there. As a result of the attack, at least 22 coalmine workers were killed while seven others got injured. The armed assailants fled from the scene after the horrific attack. The reports suggested that they also burnt the machinery used for the coalmining in the field before fleeing from the scene.
 However, the local police, Levies, Frontier Corps and administration reached the spot and cordoned off the area. The bodies of ill-fated labourers and injured ones were shifted to the district headquarter hospital Duki.
 After necessary first aid, most of the injured were shifted to the teaching hospital Loralai. Afterwards, four of them were shifted to Trauma Center Quetta.
 Those died in the attack belonged to different areas of Balochistan besides Afghanistan. The sources said that six of all 20 deceased mine workers hailed from Zhob while four of them belonged to Killa Saifullah. Three of them were from Pishin while one each was from Loralai, Musakhail, Harnai and Kuchlak area of Duki.
 Investigations have been started into the terrorism incident. However, no arrest could be reported till ours going to the press.
 Meanwhile, shutter down strike was observed against killing of the innocent labourers in Duki. All the business concerns and shops remained closed due to the strike.
 The strong protest was also lodged along with bodies of the deceased persons by the relatives of the deceased and others in Duki.

Funding being done for terrorism incidents from abroad: Security forces, provincial & federal Govts, whole nation united against incidents of terrorism: Governor

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail says Prime Minister would come to Quetta in couple of days to personally condole over the incident of terrorism in Duki

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 those involved in the Duki terrorism attack like incidents have nothing to do with the nationalism and they are just terrorists.
 The Governor was speaking to the hurriedly called press conference along with the Provincial Ministers and parliamentary secretaries here at the Governor's House on Friday evening.
 The Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries present on the occasion were Mir Zahoor Buledi, Mir Sadiq Umrani, Ms. Raheela Hameed Durrani, Ms. Mina Majeed Baloch and others.
 Referring the terrorists attack in Duki coal mine field that claimed lives of 20 coal mine labourers in late Thursday night, Governor said that we share the grief with the bereaved families of those martyred in the incident.
 Both leaders expressed good wishes for each other, according to a President House press release.

Zardari, Putin emphasise strengthening bilateral ties

Earlier, the president, who arrived here on Thursday for a two-day visit, also addressed the Forum which was also attended by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Tajik President Emomali Rehmon, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and others.
 In his address, the president lauded the Turkmen leadership and people for hosting the event which also provided him an opportunity to interact with the leaders of regional countries.
 Both leaders expressed good wishes for each other, according to a President House press release.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail along with Balochistan cabinet members addressing a press conference for Duki incident at Governor House.

PM reviews SCO Summit preparations

Independent Report
 ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited the capital city to review the arrangements being made for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). On the occasion, the prime minister was briefed on the reception arrangements for the guests attending the SCO Summit.
 Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and other key officials accompanied him. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and relevant authorities briefed the prime minister about the arrangements.

Agenda of terrorists is to destabilize Pakistan: CM strongly condemns Duki terror attack, orders quick & effective action against terrorists

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 concerned authorities to take quick and effective action against the terrorists involved in the Duki terrorism incident.
 He also directed to cordon off the entire area and apprehend the terrorists involved.
 The Chief Minister asserted that the terrorists have done extreme of the barbarism and cruelty by targeting the innocent labourers once again.
 He said that common poor labourers are targeted considering them the soft target, so they are cowards.

President for enhanced focus on regional connectivity, cultural cooperation

ASHGABAT (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday addressed an international forum held here in the Turkmen capital, where he emphasized an enhanced focus on the promotion of regional connectivity as well as cultural and economic collaboration in the region. The president, addressing the forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations- Basis for Peace and Development" said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan shared a deep-rooted bond of brotherhood which was built on mutual respect and commonalities of faith and a shared vision for a better and peaceful future.
 The event, held to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Magtymguly Faragi, a great Turkmen thinker, poet and philosopher, was also attended by several regional leaders including Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Tajik President Emomali Rehmon, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and others.
 President Zardari, who arrived here on Thursday on a two-day visit, called Magtymguly Faragi a "towering figure" of Turkmen literature and a "beacon of spiritual enlightenment."
 The great Turkmen poet and Pakistan's national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal shared several commonalities in their poetry and thoughts on Sufism and nationalism, he added.

Nobody allowed to disrupt SCO Conference in Islamabad: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure to welcome foreign delegations including 12 heads of the governments for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Conference, scheduled for October 15-16.
 "Those who have a mindset to conspire against the country should better stay at home as no miscreant will be allowed to disrupt the SCO Conference in Islamabad," the minister said while talking to the media.
 "The announcements do not make any difference as Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure," he said while referring to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf which had announced to hold protest in coming days.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif writes his remarks in the visitors' book at the Police Lines Headquarters.

PM pledges financial support for capacity building of police

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced to immediately increase the salaries of Islamabad Police at par with Punjab Police and an Executive Allowance for the officers of ICT Police as well as the Islamabad administration, on the pattern of provinces.
 The prime minister, addressing an event held at the Police Lines Headquarters here to pay tribute to the police force for their sacrifices and dutifulness, also announced to extend Shuhada Package to the families of the remaining 44 of total 64 officials of ICT Police martyred in the line of duty.
 During the visit, the contingent of Islamabad Police gave guard of honour to the prime minister who later laid a wreath at the Martyrs Monument at the Police Lines and penned his remarks in the visitors' book. He also offered Fateha for the police martyrs and paid tribute to the sacrifices of the police personnel.

PTI announces protest at D-Chowk during SCO summit

Monitoring Desk
 ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan's party has announced its decision to protest at Islamabad's D-Chowk on October 15—the day the country would host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the federal capital—to seek the incarcerated former prime minister's release.
 "We announce the cancellation of the protest in the districts of Punjab in view of the preparations for the peaceful protest of D-Chowk on October 15," the PTI said in a statement on X after the party's political committee meeting on Friday.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking with Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman during a meeting at his residence, in the Federal Capital.

Numbers are complete but govt wants to work as per law, constitution: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (Online): PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said numbers are complete with government but it wants to work as per law and constitution.
 "PPP has always evolved constitutional amendments with consensus, he said this while talking to media men after parliamentary committee meeting here Friday.
 He held government wants consensus. It will be our full endeavor to bring consensus draft in consultation with all parties. PPP presented in committee proposals of its original draft which include matters related to constitutional court. We presented this draft before all parties too.
 He said Maulana Fazlur Rehman reiterated his stance that his party wants to work out draft in consensus with PPP.
 We have enormous trust on federal government, he said Law minister told he has two thirds majority but we are sitting for consensus among all political parties.
 APP adds: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on Friday said that the proposed draft of constitutional amendments presented by his party included the establishment of a Constitutional Court and amendments to Articles 175 A, B, D, E, and F.
 Speaking to the media in his chamber at Parliament House, he said that the government has given time to reach a consensus on constitutional amendments related to judicial reforms.
 Bilawal said that while the PPP's final document has been released, the draft from Maulana Fazlur Rahman has not yet been formally received. He also mentioned that the PPP's draft has been with Kamran Murtaza for over a week.
 "If the government has a two-thirds majority and still seeks consensus, it is commendable," he said.
 Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stressed that the government intends to work within the framework of the constitution and the law, noting that the PPP has always pursued constitutional amendments through consensus. "The PML-N has the right to amend the constitution in line with the Charter of Democracy," he said.



QUETTA: Director General Khana Farhang Iran Quetta Dr. Syed Abul Hassan Meeri meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (ret) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

Drum beaters should first read court's decision and then criticize: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has refused to give more adjournment in intra party election review case due to absence of PTI lawyers from hearing remarking dilatory tactics are being used.
 The CJP further remarked they want headlines but Supreme Court (SC) will not give them any such headline.
 Intra Party Election review case came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa Friday.
 No lawyer from PTI side appeared in the court. Ahmad Hassan counsel for Akbar S Babar said application for adjournment has come from advocate Hamid Khan.
 The CJP while moving to counsel for Akbar S Babar remarked "read paragraph No 2 of application for adjournment. Paragraph regarding the family engagement of Hamid Khan was read.
 The CJP remarked this is application for some novel adjournment. Application of such nature has not been seen before. This case was to be fixed for hearing in proposed cause list of May 29. There was application from advocate Ali Zafar for general adjournment till June 4. Open heart surgery of one member of bench took place.

Bakht visits Trauma Center; inquires about health of Duki injured labourers

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 QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar visited the Trauma Center of the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital here on Friday. During the visit, the Minister inquired about health of the labourers injured in the terrorists attack in the coal mine field of Duki.
 Speaking on the occasion, he said that whole-hearted medical treatment facilities would be provided to the injured labourers.
 He said that the injured labourers would be shifted to Karachi if needed so, on directives of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

PM telephones to Governor on Duki terrorism; assures stern action against terrorists

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 QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif telephoned to Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail over the terrorism incident occurred in Duki area of the province.
 The Prime Minister discussed with the Governor the tragic incident of Duki in which innocent labourers were killed.
 While strongly condemning the tragic incident, the Prime Minister expressed deep grief and sorrow with the bereaved families of those lost their lives in the incident of terrorism.
 The Premier also assured that quick and stern action would be taken against those involved in the incident.
 In his message to the bereaved families, the Prime Minister said that we share their grief and stand with them in their time of grief.
 During the telephonic call, the Prime Minister also prayed for the departed souls of those labourers killed in the terrorist attack.



DUKKI: Members of Government committee negotiating with protesters on the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Governor Kundi says: India, Afghanistan lands used against Pakistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Friday, emphasized the importance of restoring peace and stability in the province, adding India and Afghanistan lands are being used against Pakistan. Addressing a press conference at the Governor House, he called for collective efforts to lift the region out of darkness and addressed the urgent need to manage internal affairs independently. Kundi highlighted the ongoing challenges, saying, "Our province is facing serious circumstances with rising incidents of terrorism. I have always

advocated for peace, and the law and order situation is deteriorating." He urged both the federal and provincial governments to take the situation seriously and implement measures to improve security. He mentioned recent political gatherings aimed at addressing the province's issues, saying that a committee led by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will engage with local representatives to present their demands to the federal government. The Governor acknowledged the constructive role played by Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who showed flexibility in

accepting recommendations during these discussions. Kundi reiterated the significance of dialogue and reconciliation, referencing the ideals of former President Asif Ali Zardari, who has consistently advocated for peaceful negotiations. He also encouraged local leaders to voice their concerns through parliamentary representation, asserting, "We will support their case until they have representation in Parliament." Furthermore, he reflected on the historical hospitality extended to Afghan refugees, urging them to contribute to peace and stability in the region.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing press conference at Governor House.

Azma calls for laws to regulate social media

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has stated that there is a need to establish laws and regulations governing the use of social media in the country. She emphasized that the humiliation and defamation of women on social media should not be tolerated. "I am fighting not just for myself but for all women who do not have access to the courts," she said during a media briefing at the Lahore High Court here on Friday. Azma revealed that

the main accused in her case is connected to a franchise of a mobile service that her husband operates. "To date, over 500 mobile SIMs have been issued in the accused's name, which are being used to blackmail people. This is more dangerous and cruel than one can imagine. They present themselves as innocent while victimizing others in court," she added. "We do not have fake accounts, nor do we intend to create them. I simply want to ensure that what happened to me does not happen to anyone else."

15 ACs transferred

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government on Friday transferred 15 assistant commissioners (ACs). According to the notification, Assistant Commissioner Gojra Noman Ali Dogar has been made an OSD [officer on special duty], while Kamran Ashraf has been given transferred as Gojra AC. Ayesha Badar has been posted as AC Hazro while services of Khurram Mukhtar has been handed over to the C&W. Jawad Hussain has been appointed Assistant Commissioner Quaidabad and Ahsan Mumtaz as AC Okara.

IGP signs MoU for healthcare discounts for police

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a private hospital (Hameed Latif) for treatment discounts for the Punjab Police employees. A ceremony in this regard was held at the Central Police Office on Friday. A Punjab Police spokesperson said that police employees and their families will receive a discount of 15 to 27 per cent on medical expenses

across all departments. Families of police martyrs will receive a 27 per cent discount on OPD services, while police employees and their families will receive a 22 per cent discount on OPD services. Police employees and their families undergoing treatment at the hospital will receive discounts of 15 to 22 per cent on overall expenses. A 25 per cent discount will be offered to police employees at the Lahore Institute of Fertility and Endocrinology Centre.

ANF recovers 75 kg drugs in 8 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 75 kg drugs worth over Rs 2.5 million and arrested nine suspects including two women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that 1200 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested from Sector, I-11/3, Islamabad. 9 kg opium and 3 kg 600 grams hashish were recovered from a vehicle rounded up near the motorway toll plaza, Islamabad.

Governor Punjab says: Bilawal's stance on constitutional courts represents voice of masses

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's stance on the creation of constitutional courts represents collective voice of the masses in the country. Talking to the media men at the residence of deceased journalist Ikhtlaq Bajwa here on Friday evening, he said that constitutional courts are need of the hour, adding that litigants had to move from pillar to post in search of justice while justice remains a far cry even for the third generation of a family.

"Once the constitutional court takes care of the constitutional matters, the Supreme Court will be able to dispense with the large number of pending cases," he said, adding that people have to wait decades for decision on a case of one marla of land and justice delayed is justice denied. Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, to a query, said the PPP has neither committed an unconstitutional act throughout its history nor did it broker legislation for an individual, adding that PPP is the only political party which has no blocs in bureaucracy, judiciary, media.



FAISALABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), inspects the Benazir Income Support Program Registration Center at Al Fateh Sports Complex, Salimi Chowk.

MNA calls for SCO common currency to boost regional cooperation

LAHORE (APP): There is a need to build a consensus to introduce a common currency among the SCO countries to facilitate trade and strengthen economic ties. These views were expressed by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Member of National Assembly (MNA) Sehar Kamran, while talking to APP. Sehar expressed these views in reference to as Pakistan is set to host a two-day SCO Council of

Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad on October 15 and 16. She said the SCO has the potential to bridge economies and bring together cultures. Let's utilize this opportunity to unite the people of this region and ensure economic prosperity for all. "United we stand, divided we fall," MNA Sehar Kamran said. She said this unique idea should be echoed in the background of sentiments of cooperation and solidarity.



FAISALABAD: Chairperson Punjab Chief Minister's Directorate of Inspection and Monitoring, Evaluation and Feedback Brigadier Retired Babar Alauddin is addressing the press conference in the Committee Room of the Deputy Commissioner's Office.

BISP registration starts, transparency to be ensured at all levels: Robina Khalid

FAISALABAD (APP): Registration for Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) has been started and transparency would be ensured at its all levels, said Senator Robina Khalid Chairperson BISP. Talking to APP during her visit to BISP Registration Center at Al-Fateh Sports Complex Saleemi Chowk here on Friday, she said that eligible people could get them registered by visiting BISP offices at Tehsil and District

level. She said that there were 9.3 million people registered with BISP and now its scope would be expanded to 10 million people who were unable to earn sufficient income to meet their expenditures. She paid tribute to the visionary leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and said that BISP was initiated to improve life standard of the poor by providing them financial assistance.

Arora celebrates birthday with staff

LAHORE (APP): A celebration was held at the Human Rights Department on the occasion of Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs, Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora's birthday. The event saw a strong participation from the department's officials and staff.

International News

Israeli strikes on Gaza, Beirut kill 50 people

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: An Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced people in central Gaza killed at least 28 people, including women and children, while 22 people were killed in an attack that targeted a senior Hezbollah figure in central Beirut. Israel has repeatedly pounded Beirut's southern suburbs, the bastion of Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, over the last two weeks but Thursday's raid was only the third time the city centre has been targeted. Medics in Gaza said three hospitals in the north were told to evacuate, putting patients' lives at risk. The strike, in which many more were wounded, occurred in the city of Deir Al-Balah where a million people have taken shelter after fleeing fighting elsewhere after more than a year of war. The Israeli military

said it had carried out a "precise strike" on the fighters who allegedly had a command and control centre embedded in a school. Palestinian group Hamas denies such accusations. Medics said 54 other people were injured at the school. The health officials said the Israeli military on Wednesday gave patients and medics 24 hours to leave the Indonesian, Al-Awda and Kamal Adwan hospitals or risk being stormed as happened earlier in the war at Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. At least 22 people were killed in Israeli strikes on a densely populated area of central Beirut on Thursday, the Lebanese health ministry said, with a security source saying a Hezbollah figure was the target. "The Israeli enemy's attacks on the capital Beirut this evening

resulted in a new toll of 22 people killed and 117 injured," the ministry said in an updated toll statement. A Lebanese security source, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, told AFP that Israel had attempted to kill a Hezbollah official who often frequented the locations targeted. Israeli forces fired on positions used by UN peacekeepers in Lebanon on Wednesday and Thursday, the UN force said, as Israel warned Lebanese civilians not to return to homes in the south and pursued a widening offensive against Hezbollah. The UNIFIL force said two of its peacekeepers were injured in one of the incidents when an Israeli tank fired at a watchtower at the force's main headquarters in Ras al-Naoura, hitting the tower and causing them to fall.



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of a cultural forum dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Turkmen poet and philosopher Magtymguly Fragi, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Russia's Putin cements ties with Iranian president in Central Asia meeting

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia's Vladimir Putin held talks with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Friday in Turkmenistan, where the two leaders hailed their countries growing economic ties and similar views on world affairs, an entente viewed with concern by the U.S. At odds with Washington and the European Union over Russia's war in Ukraine, something he casts as part of a wider

existential struggle against an arrogant and self-interested West - Putin is keen to deepen ties with what he calls the Global East and Global South. Putin, whose country is hosting a summit of the BRICS nations in Kazan on Oct. 22-24, invited Pezeshkian to come to Russia on an official visit, a proposal the Iranian leader accepted according to Russia's state RIA news agency.

Russia says 'Nuclear Five' states to meet soon in New York

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: A group of five nuclear weapons states will hold a meeting in New York in the next two weeks, Russian state media quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying on Thursday. The group brings together Russia, the United States, China, France and Britain, all of which are nuclear-armed states and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Ryabkov did not announce a specific date or say what level of officials would attend.

Hezbollah forges new command for crucial ground war after heavy Israeli blows

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Hezbollah is preparing for a long war of attrition in south Lebanon, after Israel wiped out its top leadership, with a new military command directing rocket fire and the ground conflict, two sources familiar with its operations said. Hezbollah has been diminished by three weeks of devastating Israeli blows - most notably the killing of its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Friends and foes alike are now watching how effectively it resists Israeli troops that have crossed

into Lebanon with the stated aim of driving it away from the border. The Iran-backed group still has a considerable stockpile of weapons, including its most powerful precision missiles which it has yet to use, four sources familiar with its operations said, despite waves of airstrikes that Israel says has severely depleted its arsenal. Hezbollah's command was disrupted for the first few days after Nasrallah's Sept. 27 assassination until Shi'ite militants established a new "operations room" 72 hours later.

Erdogan says Gaza 'shame of humanity', calls for permanent ceasefire

Monitoring Desk TIRANA: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan renewed his attacks on Israel as he arrived in Tirana Thursday, the first stop of a Balkans tour that will also take him to Serbia. Repeating his claim that Israel's actions in Gaza constituted "genocide", he branded it the "shame of humanity", at a joint press conference with Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama. "The international community, we must do our best to urgently guarantee a permanent ceasefire and exert the necessary pressure on Israel," he added. "The genocide that has been going on in Gaza for the past year is the common shame of all humanity," he added. The Hamas attack on Israel on October

7, 2023 resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. According to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry, 42,065 people have been killed in Gaza since the start of the war, mostly civilians. The UN has said the figures are reliable. Erdogan has branded Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the "butcher of Gaza" and compared him to Nazi Germany's Adolf Hitler. "The aggression led by the Netanyahu government now threatens the world order beyond the region," Erdogan said. Later Thursday, Erdogan, accompanied by Prime Minister Edi Rama, inaugurated the Great Mosque of Tirana.

Blinken says Asia concerned about spread of Middle East conflict

Monitoring Desk VIENTIANE: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday there was deep concern in Asia about the prospect of conflict spreading in the Middle East, as the U.N. chief called for everything possible to be done to avoid "all-out war" in Lebanon. The conflict in the Middle East was a central issue during Friday's East Asia Summit in Laos, where Blinken said Washington was dedicated to using diplomacy to try to control the situation in the face of what he called an Iranian-led axis of resistance. "The intense focus of the United States, which has been the case going back a year... (is) preventing these conflicts from spreading. And we're working on that every day," Blinken told a press conference. "We're working very hard through deterrence and through diplomacy to prevent that from happening. There's also obviously

deep concern that we share about the plight of children, women, and men in Gaza." The US has stressed to Israel the importance of meeting the humanitarian needs of people in Gaza, Blinken said, adding it was in Israel's interest that people forced from their homes by hostilities in Lebanon are able to return. The annual summit of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) also included meetings with leaders and top diplomats from India, China, Japan, the United States, Russia, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, as well as United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Friday's discussions included the war in Ukraine, Myanmar's civil war, climate change, tensions in the Taiwan Strait and concern about confrontations in the South China Sea, a key conduit for at least \$3 trillion in annual ship-borne trade.

Zelenskiy seeks pope's help to free Ukraine POWs held in Russia

Monitoring Desk VATICAN CITY: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy asked Pope Francis during a meeting at the Vatican on Friday for help in securing the release of Ukrainians held captive by Russia. Zelenskiy, who is touring major European capitals to discuss his proposed "victory plan" for the war with Russia, said he had also invited the Vatican to take part in a conference on the prisoners-of-war, due to be held in Canada later this month. "We are counting on the Holy See's assistance in helping to bring back Ukrainians who have been taken captive by Russia," Zelenskiy said in a post on social media, adding this was the main topic of his 35-minute conversation with the pope. A Vatican readout provided no details about the pope's talks with

Zelenskiy, but said a subsequent meeting between the Ukrainian leader and the Vatican's chief diplomat had included discussions "dedicated to the state of the war ... as well as the ways in which it could be brought to an end." It was Zelenskiy's second face-to-face meeting with Pope Francis in four months. The two men also met on the sidelines of a Group of Seven (G7) summit in southern Italy in June. At the end of Friday's meeting, Francis gifted Zelenskiy a piece of bronze artwork with a flower growing next to a bird, inscribed with the phrase "Peace is a fragile flower." Zelenskiy gave the pope an oil painting showing a child amid ruins in the Ukrainian town of Bucha, which was occupied by Russian forces for 33 days in spring 2022.

Japan's Nihon Hidankyo wins 2024 Nobel Peace Prize

Monitoring Desk OSLO: Japanese organisation Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki also known as Hibakusha, won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday. "Hibakusha is receiving the Peace Prize for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said in its citation. Witnesses to the only two nuclear bombs ever to be used in conflict have dedicated their lives to the struggle for a nuclear-free world. "The Hibakusha help us to describe the indescribable, to think the unthinkable, and to somehow grasp the incomprehensible pain and suffering caused by nuclear weapons."

President Zardari for railroad connectivity with Turkiye to boost trade, economic coop.

ASHGABAT (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday highlighted the need to improve railroad connectivity between Pakistan and Turkiye to boost trade and economic cooperation as well as people-to-people contacts.

In his meeting with the Speaker of Turkish Parliament, Numan Kurtulmus held a meeting in Ashgabat on the sidelines of the International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development".

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, and Chief Minister

Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, were also present during the meeting.

During the meeting, the president said that Turkiye was a great and sincere friend of Pakistan and the Muslim World and had been taking principled positions on the issues faced by the Muslim Ummah as well as raising its voice against injustice.

The meeting expressed concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Palestine and Lebanon where Israel was killing innocent people. It was emphasized that the Muslim World needed to make sincere and serious efforts to address the challenges being faced by the Ummah.

President Zardari said that Turkiye was on its way to becoming an economic power and expressed his best wishes for the success and prosperity of Turkiye.



ASHGABAT: President Asif Ali Zardari and the Speaker of Turkiye's Parliament, Numan Kurtulmus, in a meeting on the sidelines of the International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development" being held in Ashgabat.

Pakistan's stability will not be compromised by political ambitions: Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Defence Khawaja Asif, on Friday responding to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call for protest, warned that any attempts to destabilize the country will be met with the full force of the state. Speaking to a private news channel, he highlighted that hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference was a major diplomatic achievement for Pakistan.

He accused PTI of trying to hinder the country's progress, stating, "This is a deliberate attempt to de-

stabilize Pakistan and halt our economic growth."

He further criticized PTI, alleging that the party was aligned with international conspiracies aimed at destabilizing the nation. "This is a continuation of their efforts to ensure that Pakistan remains unstable," he remarked. Khawaja Asif also condemned PTI's silence over the frequent martyrdom of soldiers, saying, "They have not issued a single statement condemning the losses our security forces suffer, and instead, they seem focused on weakening Pakistan."



Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem handing over Command Scroll to Commander Karachi Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi.

Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi take over as Commander Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi took over as Commander Karachi and Rear Admiral Abdul Munib assumed the Command of Commander Pakistan Fleet during Change of Command ceremonies held here on Friday.

Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi handed over the command of PN Fleet to Rear Admiral Abdul Munib and Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem handed over the command of Commander Karachi to Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, a news release said. Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College (Lahore), Naval Command College (USA), and National Defence University (Islamabad).

Minister Health says: BUMHS has key status in progress of medical sector

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has stated that the Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS) has key status in development of the medical sector of province and as such its progress is included in priorities of the provincial government.

The Minister for Health was speaking on occasion of the visit to BUMHS here on Friday. Also accompanied with him were the Secretary Health, Majeed Rehman Panjezi, Director General Health, Amin Khan Mandokhail, The Principal of Bolan

Medical College, Professor Raz Muhammad Kakar briefed the Minister Health about overall functioning of the institute.

He also informed the Minister about the challenges being faced by the BMC including lack of infrastructure besides its future needs.

Bakht Muhammad Kakar maintained that the provincial government is taking all possible steps for raising standard of the medical education in the province.

During his visit, the Minister also went round of the under construction boys and girls hostel in the college.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar enquiring about injured of Dukki coal mine firing



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

Ahsan Iqbal, Saudi Minister explore strategies to strengthen bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, on Friday emphasized Pakistan's commitment to increasing its trade volume with Saudi Arabia by collaborating with the current Saudi leadership.

During a meeting with Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falah, the minister highlighted that trade between the two countries stood at \$4.6 billion in 2022.

He stated that the relationship between the two countries was unique and had always withstood the test of time.

However, he stressed that the challenge now is to align the relationship with modern realities by enhancing trade. "Our political relationship will strengthen with robust economic cooperation," the minister asserted.

Reflecting on the beginning of Chinese cooperation in the form of CPEC projects, he recalled, "In 2013, I was entrusted with the responsibility of launching a game-changing project with China. It started with a piece of paper, and within 3-4 years, Pakistan secured \$25 billion in investments under CPEC."

Quoting the success of CPEC, the minister added that by 2017, Pakistan had reached a point where every American and European businessman was keen on joining CPEC projects. "Unfortunately, due to the poor policies of the then government, our policies were discontinued, weakening the economy," he remarked.

When the current government took office again, the challenge was to stabilize the economy for long-term growth. To achieve this, the government cre-

ated the 5Es framework, which, according to the minister, was developed after consulting 1,000 opinion leaders and sector experts.

Discussing Pakistan's future trajectory, the minister said that the country's most pressing challenge over the next 5-7 years would be increasing exports.

"Our weakness is that, over the past 77 years, we have failed to adopt an export-led growth strategy."

He further noted that a significant challenge Pakistan faces is the capacity of low-skilled labor working in Saudi Arabia. "If the labor class returns to Pakistan, it will result in a considerable decrease in FDI," he added.

The minister suggested training Pakistan's workforce and upgrading their technical capabilities to retain them within the Saudi economy.

Provincial Ministers flay Duki terrorism incident

QUETTA: The Provincial Ministers Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetrani and Bakht Muhammad Kakar have strongly condemned the terrorism incident occurred in the coalmine field in Duki.

In their separate condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the Provincial Minister for PHE, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetrani and Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar expressed deep grief and sorrow over killing of the innocent coal mine labourers in the terrorism incident.

They said that killing of labourers is inhumanity and intolerable. They said that killing of labourers is gross violation of the justice and human rights.

During a visit to Park View City, he emphasized that empowering these resources with increased investment, such as the initiatives announced earlier, will further unlock Pakistan's potential.

The Saudi Minister expressed optimism about Pakistan's economic future.

Ulema, Mashaikh of Kohat division pledge support to Pakistan Army

PESHAWAR (APP): Ulema & Mashaikh, and Madrasah students from Kohat Division visited Kohat Garrison, where they expressed their solidarity with the Pakistan Army in efforts to maintain peace and eliminate the threat of Khawarij. During the visit, the group paid tribute to the Pakistan Army and security forces for their sacrifices in safeguarding the nation. The participants unanimously pledged to cooperate with the relevant authorities in preventing the spread of Khawarij ideology and other disruptive elements that threaten peace.

Two terrorists killed in 'accomplices' firing: CTD

LAHORE (APP): Two terrorists were killed allegedly in the firing of their own accomplices when five militants in two police vans were being shifted from Sahiwal jail in the wake of a threat alert.

According to the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) spokesman, the eliminated militants were the masterminds behind the Dasu Dam attack, and facing life sentence. Five terrorists were being shifted from Sahiwal jail in two police vans when on Samundri Road when some unidentified terrorists attacked one of the vans to get their accomplices freed from police custody.

Train service resumed from Quetta for interior country after 46 days

QUETTA: The train service was resumed for the interior country from Quetta as Jaffar Express departed for Peshawar after suspension of some 46 days, on Friday morning.

The Divisional Superintendent of Pakistan Railways Quetta, Imran Hayat saw off the passengers left for Peshawar from the Quetta Railway station.

It may be mentioned here that the train service remained suspended from Quetta to other parts of the country due to destruction of a railway bridge located in Dozan area of Bolan. The railway bridge had been destroyed by some miscreants in a subversive act on August 26, 2024. However, it was reconstructed by the Pakistan Railways and with this, the train service was resumed. It may also be mentioned here that the trial of the bridge was done on Thursday in presence of the DS Railways.



QUETTA: Members of Pakistan Mine Workers Federation are holding protest demonstration against the attack on miners in Duki area of Balochistan, at Quetta press club.

No country can progress without a high-quality education system: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday emphasized that the provision of quality education and technical training was the government's top priority, as no nation can progress without a high-quality education system.

He was chairing an important review meeting on Federal Education and Technical Training Affairs.

The Prime Minister stated that, in today's education landscape, skills development, information technology, and digitization have become indispensable, stressing the urgent need to align Pakistan's education system with these modern principles. He further highlighted that, in line with the government's commitment to ensuring no child in Pakistan is left out of school, the incumbent administration had implemented an



ASHGABAT: President Asif Ali Zardari and the Speaker of Turkiye's Parliament, Numan Kurtulmus, in a meeting on the sidelines of the International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development" being held in Ashgabat.

Gilani calls for promoting cooperation with UAE

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday said that Pakistan greatly valued its longstanding relationship with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and highlighted the importance of enhancing bilateral cooperation in key sectors such as Information Technology, renewable energy, agriculture and tourism. The acting president expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaab, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Yousaf Raza Gilani applauded the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.



QUETTA: MPs Shahida Rauf, Uzma Yaqoob, Sheyan Imran and others meeting with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola

Health Dept directs NGOs to obtain NOC from MNCH

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan Health Department has informed all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on maternal and child healthcare to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the provincial coordinator of the Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) program before operating in any district of the province.

The directive aims to ensure the proper utilization of available resources and prevent duplication of efforts. According to the circular issued by the Director General of Health Services, obtaining a NOC will be mandatory for all NGOs working on maternal and child healthcare services.

Documenting Friendship: 'from Xi'an to Gwadar Port' marks 75 years of Sino-Pak ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): A new cultural documentary titled 'From Xi'an to Gwadar Port' has been launched to celebrate the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan. This joint venture commemorates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The documentary was selected as an "Asian Film and Television Exchange Project" by the China National Film and Television Bureau, receiving major cultural quality support from the Publicity Department of the CPC Shaanxi.

At a press conference held on Friday at Pakistan Television (PTV), the large-scale humanistic documentary "From Xi'an to

Gwadar Port" was officially broadcast.

On this occasion, Director Producer Bai Zhijun addresses to the press conference, said that the total planning "One inch road an inch of blood during Krakoram road construction process."

"Road workers many people lost their lives, average every Kilometer is a staff sacrifice. The two peoples paid a huge price, the people with life and sweet to build the road. Belt and Road as important part of economic corridor is known as the road of friendship," The director of the documentary said that China and Pakistan are connected by "mountains and rivers, lips and teeth."

Pakistan Business Forum says Termination of IPP accords marks beginning of broader reforms providing economic relief to public

QUETTA (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) for Balochistan and former President FPCCI, Daroo Khan Achakzai lauded the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and federal cabinet efforts to terminate five Power Purchase Agreements (PPA's) termed a first step for an efficient electricity tariff for the public and industry.

As this move will benefit electricity consumers to the tune of Rs60 billion annually, reducing per-unit electricity costs, and saving the national treasury Rs411 billion overall.

Addressing the press