



The enemies of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor have again tried to interrupt it through such cowardly attempt but the enemy will never succeed in its evil designs

Prime Minister  
Shehbaz Sharif

## President Zardari calls on provincial govts to focus on primary, secondary education for orphans

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday urged provincial governments to take special measures aimed at ensuring access to primary and secondary education for orphaned children across the country. Stressing the need to actively participate in the cause of education, training and care of orphans, the president said the support and education of orphans was a common responsibility of all of us. He was speaking at an iftar dinner hosted by him for the orphaned children at the President House on the occasion of Orphan Day. Every year on 15th of Ramazan, the World Orphan's Day is celebrated on the call of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in all the member countries. President Zardari said he was delighted to meet the innocent and charming children.

Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present in the ceremony. She also met orphans from different cities of Pakistan. Chairman Pakistan Orphan Care Forum (POCF) Air Marshal (ret'd) Farooq Habib addressing the event said the POCF was working for the upbringing and care of orphans. He said healthy societies always care for the development and education of the vulnerable, especially orphans. He said there were about 4.6 million orphans in the country while the POCF was taking care of around 100,000 orphan children. Expressing gratitude to President Asif Zardari, the Chairman POCF said inviting children to the presidency would increase their confidence and motivation. SABAH

## Ambassadors of Turkiye, Russia, Sweden call on FM Dar



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan Dr. Mehmet Pacaci on Tuesday paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The foreign minister thanked Turkish leadership for its messages of goodwill to the newly elected government in Pakistan. Recalling exemplary Pak-Türkiye relationship, FM Dar expressed his desire to further deepen cooperation between the two brotherly countries across all areas of mutual interest. Ambassadors of Türkiye, Russia, Sweden call on FM Dar in another meeting, the foreign minister met the Russian Ambassador, Albert Khorev and discussed bilateral areas of cooperation and global and regional issues of mutual concern. Ambassadors of Türkiye, Russia, Sweden call on FM Dar Meanwhile, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan Henrik Persson also called on Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in trade, investment, education, and people-to-people exchanges. APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, and met with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer condolences over the death of Chinese nationals in a suicide attack in district Shangla. INP

## PM announces significant incentives for highest tax payers

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday while terming the highest tax payers as 'heroes of the nation' announced significant incentives including issuance of blue passport to them and conferring of Pakistan Honour Cards and honorary title of ambassadors of the country upon them. Addressing a 'Tax Excellence Awards' ceremony held here to acknowledge the highest tax payers, the prime minister said the highest tax payers and exporters would be treated as honorary ambassadors of the country abroad and the country's embassies across the globe would be directed to fully coordinate in this regard. The prime minister further said that the purpose of the today's ceremony was to acknowledge the contributions of the heroes of the nation and those who honestly paid taxes and served the country through their talents, with setting up of small and medium businesses, women entrepreneurs and those who had spurred the non-traditional exports. The prime minister said that about Rs65 billion refunds had been issued to exporters upon his direction and he had also directed for making it a routine matter without any leniency. While mentioning the country's economic issues and challenges, he stressed that the government and private sector had to work closely to overcome them. "If we want to resolve these issues, like two wheels of a vehicle, the private sector and the government have to work closely and with the support of provincial governments, the federal government will address the issues faced by

the private sector, end red tape with provision of enabling circumstances to them so that they can tread upon the development path," the prime minister said. The government's role was not to do the businesses but it acted like a catalyst and through facilitation, consultative process and enactment of policies; they could lead Pakistan on path to progress, he added. The prime minister said that a nation's voice was heard among the comity of nations when it had sound economic health. "The time has arrived when all have to accept the challenge through best solutions," he opined and stressed upon overcoming the past decades mistakes. "Implementation of policies with letter and spirit and under complete dedication is the strategy of the incumbent government to put country on path of progress," he added. He reiterated that they should get rid of costly oil churning power units to provide comparative power supply to industries and said that he had directed the minister concerned and authorities to do away with such junk. About FBR, he said they were taking measures for its complete restructuring and informed that next month, a consultant would be appointed. The prime minister opined that about 27 billion rupees were under litigation whereas revenue target was set at Rs9 trillion. He said underscored the need of appointment of competent tribunal heads to expeditiously dispose of the pending litigation, adding that he had also appealed to the chief justice for speedy disposal of such cases at the upper tiers. He said the country's tax collection stood around 9 per cent of the total GDP which was lowest in the region while huge chunk of tax

was siphoned off. He said that if this massive leakage was not plugged, further imposition of taxes would not yield results and underlined the need to reduce tax slabs. He said that they required innovative tax initiatives. He also appreciated the tax collectors and the relevant departments who he said would also be given public recognition. The prime minister referring to seeking of foreign debts said that it was grave matter and it was high time to indulge into self introspection. He emphasized upon an exports led growth, boosting of IT and agriculture development. Youth bulge was a valuable asset for the country that should be imparted skilled education, he observed. The prime minister also termed another IMF programme a requirement for the country's economic stability. The prime minister mentioned the functioning of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) which was accelerating investment prospects by removing all hurdles. He said that Pakistan enjoyed excellent ties with China and said that the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would expedite the economic development. The prime minister said that they were outsourcing airports besides expediting the privatization of PIA, and regretted that state owned enterprises were making billion of rupees losses annually. Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, in his remarks, said that for development and growth, taxes on internal side and exports on external side were drivers for development. He stressed upon end to end digitization to plug the loopholes and structured reforms.

## Armed Forces to hold all those involved in aiding terrorism accountable with nation's support, ironclad ally China

RAWALPINDI: The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday in a statement said that with the unwavering support of the resilient nation and the country's iron-clad ally China, the Armed Forces would ensure that all those involved in aiding terrorism, directly or indirectly, are held accountable and find their due comeuppance. "Together we will prevail over adversity and evil. INSHA ALLAH," the ISPR news release said.



It added that the recent incidents of terrorism in Pakistan, notably in Gwadar, Turbat, and Besham, were dastardly acts aimed at destabilizing the internal security situation. While the first two attempts were successfully thwarted by the armed forces, the latest incident at Besham led to the loss of six innocent civilians including five Chinese nationals.

"The whole nation stands in solidarity with our Chinese brothers and unequivocally condemn this cowardly act. Strategic projects and sensitive sites vital for Pakistan's economic progress and the well-being of its people are being targeted as a conscious effort to retard our progress and sow discord between Pakistan and its strategic allies and partners, most notably China," the ISPR said.

It mentioned that certain foreign elements were complicit in aiding and abetting terrorism in Pakistan, driven by their vested interests. Despite the veneer of innocence, these elements are being continuously exposed as sponsors of terror. Such heinous acts of violence against innocent civilians, foreigners and the armed forces will not deter the resolve of the Pakistani people, its security forces and our partners to root out the menace terrorism from our country. Pakistan, as the frontline state against terror, remains perhaps the only nation directly confronting the international terrorist enterprise with absolute steadfastness and full resolve of the state. PR



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi visits the Chinese Embassy and met with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer condolences over the death of Chinese nationals in a suicide attack. APP

## NA Speaker & Deputy Speaker condemn terrorists' attack on van in Shangla, Besham carrying Chinese nationals to Dasu Dam

### Sardar Ayaz Sadiq says terrorists will never succeed in their nefarious designs to create rift between Pakistan & China



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah have expressed deep sorrow and grief on the death of Chinese Nationals who lost their lives in a heinous terrorists' attack in Shangla Besham. They also strongly condemned terrorists attack on Chinese

Nationals. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has termed such attacks on Chinese Nationals as attempts to bring fissure in unbreakable ties between Pakistan and China. He added, "Terrorists will never succeed in their nefarious designs to create rift between Pakistan and China. He emphasized on Security Agencies to take immediate actions against those who are involved in such barbarous acts. Further, he expressed that Pakistani Security Agencies along with people and parliament would soon uproot terrorism from soil of Pakistan. Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah also said that such terrorist activities against Nationals of brethren country China is condemnable in every sense of word. He said that every Pakistani shares the grief and sadness on the death of innocent Chinese in today's terrorist attacks.

## Four terrorists killed in D I Khan IBO

RAWALPINDI: As many as four terrorists were killed on March 25th during an Intelligence Based Operation (IBO) conducted in Dera Ismail Khan District, the military's media wing said on Tuesday.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, an intense exchange of fire took place between the forces and the insurgents, whereas the killed terrorists were identified as Terrorist Mustafa, Terrorist Qismat Ullah and Terrorist Islam Ud Din.

The killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous subversive activities against the security forces and killing of innocent civilians. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists.

The locals of the area appreciated the operation. A sanitization operation was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area as the security forces were determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country, the ISPR said. PR

## Pakistan committed to complete TAPI gas pipeline project : Musadik Malik



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, describing it as a flagship project essential for the country's energy needs. During a meeting with the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan, Atadjan Movlamov, the Minister said that TAPI gas pipeline project is very important for Pakistan's energy requirements, said a news release issued by the Ministry of

Energy Petroleum Division. During Musadik Malik previous tenure in office, the project experienced unprecedented momentum, resulting in significant progress and tangible outcomes. He reiterated his dedication to advancing the project. The Ambassador Movlamov felicitated the Minister on assuming office and commended his dedication to the project.

Acknowledging the Ambassador's warm wishes, Dr. Musadik Malik expressed gratitude for the support and pledged to uphold the partnership between both countries. Atadjan Movlamov briefed about the scheduled intergovernmental commission and working group meetings for the project this year. The envoy said that TAPI represents a win-win situation for all involved parties.

He extended an invitation to the Minister to participate in the Turkmenistan Energy Forum scheduled to be held in Paris next month.

## Finance minister terms tax award winners 'national heroes'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday termed the tax award winners 'national heroes,' urging the countrymen to pay their due taxes being responsible citizens.

"You [the tax award winners] are really our national heroes. The entire nation and the country should follow you as a beacon of light," the minister said while addressing the Tax Excellence Awards distribution ceremony here. The high taxpayers were awarded with the prizes by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Highlighting importance of tax collection in revenue generation, Aurangzeb said direct tax on domestic side and exports on the external



front were levers of the growth and development. "In Pakistan's case, the both flows have been raise-bound and therefore underwhelming, and redressing them on urgently basis is critical." The finance minister reiterated a firm resolve of the government for restructuring and digitization of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), for

which it was in process of appointing consultants "for design and implementation in term of end to end digitalization.

He talked about bringing structural reforms, doing end-to-end digitalization and ensuring transparency in the tax-collection system, stressing that "We have to plug the leakages. There is a huge room for improvement in operational effectiveness of something rolled out few years back."

Aurangzeb was of the view to restore the confidence of superior clients' trust [high tax payers] in the government policies and transparency in the tax-collection system, which would help expand the tax-base. The minister warned that the import-

led and subsidy-supported businesses were not sustainable anymore and the country would have to accelerate export the led- growth to achieve the trajectory of sustainable growth. He urged the private sector to continue improving productivity in industrial operations, assuring that the government would provide them best policy framework, competitive energy and IT developed skills, which would lead to the government to progress and prosperity.

Speaking on the occasion, FBR Chairman Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana expressed the confidence that the tax collection would increase due to effective policies of the government. APP

## One soldier martyred, four terrorists killed in Turbat Naval Base attack

RAWALPINDI: A sepoy of the Frontier Corps Balochistan on Tuesday embraced martyrdom while four terrorists were killed during a swift and effective response of the security forces to the terrorists' attack on the Pakistan Naval Base and the Navy Ship PNS Siddique in Turbat while ensuring the safety and security of the personnel and assets.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the terrorists attempted to attack the Naval Base on the night of March 25th and 26th.

However, the security forces in the vicinity were immediately mobilised to support the

naval troops. "Synergetic & effective response by the armed forces enabled killing of all four terrorists in ensuing joint clearance operation," the ISPR said.

The martyred soldier was identified as Sepoy Noman Fareed (age 24 years, resident of Muzaffargarh) of Frontier Corps Balochistan, having fought gallantly, embraced, shahadat, during intense exchange of fire.

"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area. Pakistan Armed Forces remain committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country at all costs," the ISPR said. PR





## IHC judges ask SJC to convene judicial convention over spy agencies' 'interference'

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court judges have urged the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) to convene a judicial convention over the matter of the alleged interference of members of the executive, including operatives of intelligence agencies, in judicial affairs.

In a letter to the SJC, six judges of the IHC — Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, and Justice Saman Fafat Imtiaz — sought guidance from the council on the "interference" of the spy agencies in courts' affairs.

"We are writing to seek guidance from the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) with regard to the duty of a judge to report and respond to actions on part of members of the executive, including operatives of intelligence agencies, that seek to interfere with discharge of his/her official functions and qualify as intimidation, as well as the duty to report any such actions that come to his/her attention in relation to colleagues and/or members of the courts that the High Court supervises," read the letter.

The development came days after the top court declared the removal of former IHC Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui illegal, directing that he may now be considered as a retired judge.

The verdict noted that the SJC proceeded against Justice Siddiqui on the "assumption that the truth or falseness of the allegations levelled" by the former judge was "irrelevant". It also noted that the SJC opined that Justice Siddiqui had failed to substantiate, independently corroborate, substantiate or prove the allegations levelled by him.

The IHC judges, in their letter, supported Justice Siddiqui's request to investigate the allegations made by him and urged that the scope of such investigation be expanded to determine whether such interference in relation to the administrative functions of IHC (including composition of benches and marking of cases) and judicial proceedings of the courts that IHC supervises are still continuing and whether judges of high courts, district and special courts are discharging functions under explicit and or veiled threats of coercion by intelligence agencies.

"We will also note that the code of conduct for Judges prescribed by SJC provides no guidance on how judges must react to and or report incidents that are tantamount to intimidation and interfere with judicial independence."

The judges further said that they "believe it is imperative to inquire into and determine whether there exists a continuing policy on the part of the executive branch of the state, implemented by intelligence operatives who report to the executive branch, to intimidate judges, under threat of coercion or blackmail, to engineer judicial outcomes in politically consequential matters."

In addition to this, the IHC judges requested that a judicial convention be called to consider the matter of "interference of intelligence operatives with judicial functions and or intimidation of judges in a manner that undermines the independence of the judiciary". INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for Aviation Khawaja Muhammed Asif chairs a meeting on outsourcing of airports and privatisation of PIA at aviation division.. INP

## PM Shehbaz, President Zardari discuss political, economic situation in first meeting



### VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari held their first meeting on Tuesday since assuming charge of their respective offices.

PM Shehbaz and President Zardari exchanged views on the country's overall political and economic situation. Both high-ups expressed joint commitment to steer the country out of challenges. They also discussed measures for providing relief to the masses during the month of

Ramadan.

It may be noted that the PML-N formed the government in Centre and Punjab with the support of PPP, with both parties pledging to work together to end the economic crisis in the country.

Taking the country's reins, the PML-N expressed confidence in the economic revival of the country after a few years of hardship. Party's supremo Nawaz Sharif expressed hope that Pakistan will come out of difficulties in the next two years by taking difficult decisions.

"I believe the next 1.5 or 2 years will be difficult but we have to stay united [during the difficult times] and face our opponents," he said while addressing the parliamentary party meeting after the decision on government formation last month.

He pledged on the government's behalf of providing relief to the masses by bringing down inflation, food prices and utility bills as well as stabilising local currency value against the US dollar.

The PML-N supremo had also heaped praise on his younger brother and party president Shehbaz Sharif, saying he dealt with immense challenges during his brief stint in power.

## Law minister chairs meeting for tax reforms

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that Federal Board of Revenue would nominate full time departmental representative for courts so that tax related cases could be concluded as early as possible.

A meeting regarding tax reforms and tax collection was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Law Raja Naem Akbar and Afaq Qureshi Member Operations (IR). Some of the crucial decisions were taken during the meeting. The law minister while giving direction said that FBR will nominate full time departmental representative instead of 15 days duration who will appear on behalf of FBR.

This will help handling the tax related cases in a proper manner and avoid adjournment of cases.

The law minister also advised that each hearing will be reported back with a performa to evaluate the performance.

The alternative dispute resolution committee will be constituted in this regard, he said.

Ministry of Law will nominate retired Judges of High Court and FBR, and issue the notification.

The law minister also gave directions that FBR will revise Panel lists to improve the efficacy.

It was also decided that progress will be made to resolve the cases without delay.

Lastly, if required the law ministry will provide legal assistance to Federal Board of Revenue.

## Five Chinese, one Pakistani national killed in terrorist attack near Besham: FO

ISLAMABAD: Five Chinese and one Pakistani national were killed on Tuesday in a terrorist attack near Besham in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a statement.

"The government of Pakistan strongly condemns this heinous act of terrorism," the statement said adding "We will take all necessary measures to bring the terrorists and their facilitators to justice. Such dastardly acts cannot dent the resolve of Pakistani nation to fight against the scourge of terrorism".

Today's attack was orchestrated by the enemies of Pakistan-China friendship. The government will resolutely act against all such forces and defeat them.

The people and government of Pakistan stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Chinese friends in this difficult time and extend sincere condolences to the families of the Chinese nationals killed in the attack.

Pakistan and China are close friends and iron brothers. The life and safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan is of paramount importance.

Pakistan will continue to work with our Chinese brothers in ensuring the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan, the statement added. APP

## Leghari for approval of feasible projects to effectively prevent hill torrents



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari Tuesday directed the officials concerned to expedite the approval and implementation of feasible projects to effectively prevent hill torrents and mitigate associated losses.

During a meeting with officials from the Federal Flood Commission and Punjab Irrigation Department, he emphasized the need for com-

prehensive projects aimed at minimizing damage to life and property caused by hill torrents in the region. During the meeting they discussed the pressing issue of hill torrents in Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur, exacerbated by climate change. Furthermore, the minister highlighted the significance of accessing the Green Climate Fund to accelerate the implementation of these vital projects.

He stressed the urgency of addressing this issue to safeguard the well-being of residents and protect valuable resources in Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur. APP

## Shaza, AdVentures delegation held constructive meeting

### VOM Report



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, held a constructive meeting with the delegation of AdVentures. The delegation, led by the head of the company, Parvez Abbasi, briefed the Minister of State regarding the preparations for World Telecom Day. During the meeting, Minister of State Shaza Fatima said that Pakistan possesses abundant talent, yet there exists a crucial need to elevate Pakistan's branding at the global level, according to a news release. She reiterated that the government is extending all possible support to the private sector in this endeavor. She highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in meeting the demands of modern technology and the digital world.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal chairing a meeting on progress of Gwadar Power Plant with Chinese company. INP

## Pakistan hails UNSC's Gaza ceasefire resolution, urges its implementation

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has welcomed the UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in war-ravaged Gaza, emphasizing that the long-awaited resolution must be implemented.

"We call for the immediate implementation of this Security Council resolution in accordance with Article 25 of the UN Charter," Ambassador Munir Akram said Monday, when asked for his comments by APP. Under the terms of that Charter article, UN member states agree to carry out the decisions of the 15-member Council. "This must be a first step in halting Israel's brutal campaign in Gaza," Ambassador Akram said.

"Pakistan will continue to work actively for a just, comprehensive and durable solution through the establishment of a secure, viable, contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine on the basis of the pre-June 1967 borders, with Al-



Quds Al-Sharif as its capital," he added. Monday's Council resolution demanded an immediate ceasefire for the holy month of Ramadan, and "the urgent need to expand the flow" of aid into Gaza. There were 14 votes in favour, with the United States abstaining.

## Pak-Qatar sign agreements to boost Pakistani workforce opportunities in Qatar

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan and Qatar have signed several agreements and letters of Intent (LOIs) with top Qatari companies the main purpose of this initiative was set to significantly enhance employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in Qatar.

An official source told APP, the signing of these Agreements with renowned Qatari firms, including Qatari Diyar-Saudi Bin Laden Group Construction (QD-SBG), Hamad Bin Khaled Contracting Company W.L.L (HBK), Ali Bin Ali Holding W.L.L, Sheikh Jabor Bin Mansour Bin Jabor Bin Jassim Al Thani (JMJ) Holding, Tabeeb Care Medical Services, and Al Rawnaq International Commercial Projects, marks a crucial step in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Qatar in the field of human resource development. In addition to these agreements,



the Pakistani delegation held a significant meeting with Mr. Hamad Saleh Al Qamra, Chairman of Al Qamra Holding, focusing on the recruitment of Pakistani manpower for various company projects. The visit also included a tour of the human View Hospital, a part of Elegancia Health Care, where the recruitment

of Pakistani health professionals is underway following a recent MoU between Elegancia Health Care and the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) of Pakistan. The primary objective of these initiatives is to create enhanced employment avenues for Pakistani workers in Qatar. SAPM Malik

highlighted the potential of Pakistan as a key manpower exporter and detailed the government's efforts to streamline this process through quality recruitment agencies, skill development, and addressing foreign employers' needs.

The CEOs of the Qatari companies expressed satisfaction with the Pakistani workforce and their willingness to increase Pakistani manpower in their companies, adhering to the governmental regulations of Qatar. The meetings also shed light on the growing demand for skilled labor in sectors like services, maintenance, hospitality, and construction, following Qatar's significant infrastructural development.

These agreements and discussions represent a significant stride in increasing the presence of the Pakistani workforce in Qatar, paving the way for mutual economic growth and stronger bilateral ties.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh visiting the Pakistan Maritime Academy. APP