



The government was resolutely committed to defeating terrorism and will thwart the nefarious plans of terrorists

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## No one can be allowed to perpetrate violence in name of nationality: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in 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 unluckily 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. INP

## PNS Yarmook conducts exercise with Oman Navy Ship in Gulf of Oman amid RMSP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) YARMOOK on Tuesday conducted Passage Exercise with Royal Navy of Oman Vessel (RNOV), AL SEEB during Regional Maritime Security Patrol in the Gulf of Oman.

The exercise was aimed to develop synergy and mutual understanding between the two navies while demonstrating interoperability to undertake Joint Operations in the region. Earlier, PNS YARMOOK also visited Muscat, Oman, where Commanding Officer called on military leadership of Oman and discussed matters of mutual interest, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Pakistan Navy regularly operates along with other navies for a common cause of promoting peace and stability in the region. Cognizant of its national obligation to maintain rule-based order at sea, Pakistan Navy regularly deploys its warships on Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) and also contributes to collaborative maritime security efforts. PR

## Govt maintains zero tolerance policy towards power pilferage: Awais Leghari

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

He 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.

Regarding the high cost of electricity, he assured that all possible measures were being taken to provide less expensive electricity to consumers and that they will soon receive more good news in this regard.

Earlier, the Minister along with Federal Secretary (Power Division) Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam Irfan and other senior officers arrived at the IESCO headquarters. The minister was received by Chairman Board of Directors IESCO Dr. Tahir Masood and CEO IESCO Muhammad Naem Jan. APP



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: PM

VOM Report

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

"The time has come to eliminate terrorism. The sacrifices being rendered for the cause will never be squandered. We need to move forward with firm resolve. There is no question of any weakness. We are open to talks with those who believe in the supremacy of Pakistan's constitution and respect its flag. But there can be no leniency or talks with those who are enemies in the guise of friends. This is a clear message. There are no two opinions on this," the prime minister said addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him.

The prime minister began his remarks by reiterating the condemnation of the terror incidents held in different parts of the country during the last couple of days killing dozens of citizens and the officers and personnel of the security forces.

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

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

## CII chief lauds PM for measures to uplift economy, curb terrorism



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Council of Islamic Ideology Dr Allama Raghieb Naemi on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and lauded his government's measures for economic stability and the country's progress.

He expressed full confidence and support to the government in its resolute efforts to rid the country of terrorism. The CII chief also appreciated the prime minister for playing effective role in amicably resolving the matter related to Khatm-e-Nabuwat.

ment 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.

## Minister urges PTI to discuss charter of economy, public welfare issues

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Tuesday urged the leaders of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI), to discuss charter of economy and public interest issues.

Talking to a private television channel, he said that PTI leadership is wasting time of the nation by creating political issues.

He said PTI should sit for talks to strengthen democracy, and charter of economy for accelerating business activity in the country.

In reply to a question about political differences with Pakistan Peoples Party, he said the Pakistan Muslim League-N, has cordial relations with the PPP ruling in Sindh. He appreciated the focus of provincial government on health, education and housing sectors.

He said that Punjab Chief Minister has taken drastic measures for extending relief to public on power bills. He also asked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to take similar decision for their people to mitigate the sufferings arising due to inflation in the province. APP

## 25 terrorists including ringleader killed in Tirah valley IBOs: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: As many as 25 terrorists including their ringleader Abuzar alias Saddam were killed and 11 others injured in successful intelligence-based operations of security forces in Tirah valley of district Khyber, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday.

As per statement of the military's media wing, the security forces to tackle the Fitna al Khawarij and its affiliates launched "robust intelligence" operations.

"Since August 20, 2024, these daring and highly successful IBOs have led to the neutralization of 25 Khawarij, including their ringleader Abuzar alias Saddam, who has been sent to hell, while eleven others have been injured," the statement said.

The ISPR said that four soldiers while bravely fighting the terrorists embraced martyrdom during these operations.

The heavy losses inflicted on Fitna al Khawarij in these operations highlight the courage and



dedication of the security forces in their mission to eradicate terrorism from the country, the statement added.

Earlier this month, the government designated the TTP as Fitna al-Khawarij, labeling all terrorists associated with the group as Khariji. PR

## Pakistan, Azerbaijan vow to deepen youth cooperation

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Khazar Farhadov, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, called on Mr. Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, at the latter's office in Islamabad. 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.

The meeting was attended by Member National Assembly Miss Syeda Anna Batool and officials from Prime Minister's Youth programme. During the meeting, Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan outlined the vision of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, 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 generations. "Youth is our most important asset, and it is through their development that we can ensure a prosperous future for our countries," said Ambassador Farhadov. A significant portion of the discussions



centered around the potential collaboration between Pakistan's National Volunteer Corps (NVC) and Azerbaijan's Volunteer Network. Chairman Rana Mashood briefed the Ambassador on the objectives of the NVC, which aims to foster a spirit of volunteerism among Pakistani youth, encouraging them to contribute to social development projects across the country. He proposed

the idea of a collaborative framework where volunteers from both countries could engage in cross-border initiatives, share best practices, and learn from each other's experiences.

"By integrating our volunteer networks, we can create a dynamic platform for youth from Pakistan and Azerbaijan to work together on projects that promote peace, cultural understanding, and com-

munity development," said Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme.

Another key point of discussion was the establishment of dual diploma courses for students from both Pakistan and Azerbaijan. These courses would allow students to gain academic qualifications recognized in both countries, thereby enhancing their educational prospects and career opportunities. Both parties agreed that such initiatives would not only benefit students academically but also foster stronger cultural ties between the two nations.

In a gesture to further strengthen bilateral relations, Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan extended an invitation to the Ministers of Youth, Sports, and Culture of Azerbaijan to visit Pakistan. The proposed visit aims to facilitate direct dialogue and exchange of ideas, paving the way for more concrete partnerships in youth development, cultural

exchange, and sports diplomacy.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides expressing optimism about the future of Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations, particularly in the context of youth collaboration. Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working closely with Azerbaijan to create more opportunities for youth in both countries.

He stated, "Our youth are the architects of tomorrow, and by joining hands with Azerbaijan, we can provide them with the tools and opportunities they need to build a brighter future."

The Prime Minister's Youth Programme remains dedicated to fostering international partnerships that contribute to the holistic development of Pakistani youth, ensuring they are equipped to face global challenges and make meaningful contributions to society.

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## Beyond the India gambit

SHAUKAT AHMED

China, with its rapid economic growth and expanding influence, has emerged as the primary focus of American foreign policy in recent years. Consequently, Washington has increasingly sought a strategic partnership with India to counterbalance Beijing's rising power in Asia.

While this approach is strategically sound in many respects, it may overlook a more nuanced and potentially complementary strategy: leveraging Pakistan's unique position as both an American ally and a close partner of China.

The US-India partnership is grounded in logical assumptions – India's democratic ethos, economic potential, and strategic location align with American interests in countering China. However, this perspective may oversimplify the complex realities of South Asian geopolitics. Although India's economic and military capacities are growing, they still lag behind China's. This gap is not merely quantitative but qualitative, with China's technological advancements and strategic investments widening the chasm year by year. This disparity profoundly limits New Delhi's ability to serve as the sole counterbalance to Beijing's influence. This strategy also fails to account for a critical historical phenomenon: the 'Economic Interdependence Paradox'. While US alignment may currently serve India's interests, as India's economy grows, it may become more intertwined with China's economy, not less. This increasing economic interdependence could limit India's willingness to act as a strategic counterweight to China, potentially undermining US expectations and strategy in the region. Moreover, the US might be overestimating the appeal and effectiveness of its cultural soft power in India, while underestimating the rise of right-wing nationalism and fascist tendencies. India's strong cultural identity and growing Hindu nationalist movement could not only limit the effectiveness of American soft power but also create ideological friction that complicates the partnership. The current Indian government's policies, which some critics characterize as increasingly authoritarian and exclusionary, particularly towards religious minorities, stand in stark contrast to the democratic values the US claims to promote. By overlooking or downplaying these developments in favour of geopolitical expediency, the US risks aligning itself with an increasingly illiberal regime. Deeper engagement with Pakistan is crucial for maintaining a balanced approach to South Asia and avoiding the pitfalls of an overly India-centric strategy. Therefore, the potential of Pakistan as a stabilizing force in the region deserves greater consideration. Additionally, it helps avert the risk of alienating Pakistan, which could otherwise be propelled further into China's sphere of influence. This could have several negative consequences with far-reaching implications for US interests as well as regional stability. Reduced American influence in Pakistan would significantly limit America's ability to shape regional outcomes and advance its strategic objectives. This diminished role could create a vacuum that China would likely fill, potentially leading to a more assertive Chinese presence in South Asia. Most importantly, such a shift could intensify regional polarisation, further destabilizing an already fragile geopolitical landscape. Overemphasizing India in US strategy therefore risks exacerbating regional tensions, particularly given India's strained relationships with its neighbours, especially Pakistan. This approach may inadvertently undermine regional stability and contradict broader US goals. By focusing too heavily on India, the US might actually accelerate the transition to a multipolar world order, giving Beijing more room to manoeuvre and expand its influence in other regions. Pakistan, often relegated to the periphery of US strategic calculus, offers a unique and underutilized advantage that could be far more effective in addressing American concerns about China. Despite challenges in US-Pakistan relations, such as Pakistan's perceived support for non-state actors and its internal political instability, Islamabad remains a crucial ally. This relationship, forged during the cold war and reinforced through counterterrorism cooperation, provides a solid foundation for deeper engagement and strategic collaboration. Pakistan's geopolitical significance extends beyond its bilateral ties. As a nuclear-armed nation at the crossroads of the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia, Pakistan is integral to regional stability. Its location along the Arabian Sea provides strategic access to key maritime routes and proximity to the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of the world's oil supply passes. Pakistan's influence in Afghanistan and its role in the broader Islamic world are also crucial in managing regional stability and counterterrorism efforts. Pakistan's close relationship with China – grounded in strategic, economic, and military cooperation, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor – offers it unique insight into Beijing's interests. These close ties position Pakistan as a distinctive diplomatic bridge between Washington and Beijing. By leveraging this relationship, the US could foster dialogue and understanding with China, potentially mitigating the adversarial dynamics currently at play. However, this strategy is not without risks. Critics point out that Pakistan's internal challenges, such as political unpredictability and economic fragility, make Islamabad a potentially unreliable partner. To mitigate these risks, the US's strategies must be flexible, incorporating contingency plans that account for the potential volatility of Pakistan's domestic situation, which could disrupt agreements or hinder the effective implementation of development projects. Washington's engagement with Islamabad should prioritize supporting Pakistan's economic stability and development. This could involve targeted investments in infrastructure, education, and industry, as well as fostering trade relationships that strengthen Pakistan's economy and contribute to a more stable partnership.

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Khurram Mateen

# Enduring hope

Resilience and adaptability have been hallmarks of Pakistani society. No matter what hell befalls us, history bears witness to our unwavering hope and courage in facing new realities, whether in political, social, economic or personal spheres. But this admirable trait has always been exploited by hefty – and yet empty – promises of meaningful change.

Unfortunately, we are yet again at the same juncture: the country struggling to untangle itself from political and economic conundrums. But what's different this time? In this digital age, we are faced with unrelenting propaganda and fake news on social media, and, unlike in the past, we are finding it harder to sweep our political and economic failings under the rug.

While addressing disinformation or perceived despair by reining in social media through blanket measures might offer some short-term relief, it won't be a sustainable solution in the long run. Long-lasting corrective measures are needed, rather than overly relying on symptomatic treatments for this mess.

First, it must be acknowledged that the lingering effects of what critics call 'manipulative' changes of the past years won't disappear anytime soon. These effects may persist and even rebound if the current political

administration fails to meet expectations, particularly in terms of economic turnaround. The window of opportunity for the incumbent government, which claims to have staked all its political capital on economic revival – or, according to its opponents, on political self-interest – is shrinking. Externally, if tensions in the Middle East escalate into a wider regional conflict, disrupting global oil markets, it could deliver a severe blow to the government's efforts to revive the economy.

The episode involving javelin star Arshad Nadeem is a case in point. Our rulers, acting like a commercial enterprise eager to capitalize on opportunities to promote their products and services, inevitably faced backlash. Political opponents, who seize every chance to criticize even positive government actions, unleashed criticism, questioning the announcements of hefty cash rewards from taxpayers' money.

This criticism is understandable. When public funds from a debt-ridden country are lavishly spent on non-essential expenditures, it rightly sparks outrage. It is infuriating to see top officials continue to receive expensive land, free fuel, and other tempting benefits, while convoys of luxury cars speed past us on city streets, and elite enclaves expose social and economic disparities. Meanwhile, the public is repeatedly asked to tighten their belts to pull the country out of recurring economic crises.

There is a widespread belief that many of our public-sector entities are overstuffed and inefficient. The salaries and benefits given to these underperforming entities are akin to capacity payments in the energy sector. However, privatization brings its own set of challenges. The past two years have been particularly tough for both households and businesses. Although inflation has begun to cool down, many people, especially those in the salaried class, are still reeling from the economic meltdown, facing stagnant salaries and dwindling purchasing power. However, amidst all these challenges, there are encouraging signs that the government appears somewhat serious this time around in addressing the state treasury's shortcomings – or, more accurately, it has been forced to do so under IMF pressure. Recent media reports suggest that the government has decided to eliminate 28 departments in five ministries to cut administrative expenses, following the recommendations of a reforms committee formed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The committee has also proposed abolishing around 150,000 vacant government positions and outsourcing non-core functions such as janitorial services. The white elephant Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD), which had been consuming billions of rupees, has already been put on the chopping block. Such far-reaching steps are more sustainable than restricting free access to information.

Instead of resorting to quick fixes to boost public morale and support before the benefits of planned struc-

tural reforms become evident, a crackdown on 'naked corruption' and inefficiency would be a more effective starting point. Prompt administrative measures and reforms in departments such as education, health, police, and civic agencies – those that directly interact with the public – would go a long way. Improving service delivery and ensuring the protection of citizens' dignity can significantly change public perceptions of government performance. The provincial governments of the ruling coalition must take the lead on this front, given the devolution of powers under the 18th Amendment.

Small, initial steps such as ensuring that the public doesn't have to resort to 'shortcuts' to get legitimate work done at government offices, preventing police harassment, ensuring buses stop at designated spots, eliminating the demand for bribes, and most importantly, treating people with respect could be game changers. Implementing a monitoring mechanism for charitable organizations, particularly hospitals, to prevent the humiliation often disguised as discipline or crowd control would also be impactful.

The enthusiasm witnessed in the streets on August 14 is a message of hope and resilience from the public; it is now up to our rulers not to disappoint us.

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Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

## Today in History

### History of Pakistan



During that period, the Jinnah-led Muslim League was substantially less aggressive in seeking immediate British withdrawal. The differences between the two groups were not lost on Britain, and the eventual defeat of Germany and Japan set the scene for the drama that resulted in the partition of British India and the independence of Pakistan. The new postwar Labour Party government of Clement Attlee, succeeding the Conservative Winston Churchill government, was determined to terminate its authority in India. A cabinet mission led by William Pethick-Lawrence was sent in 1946 to discuss and possibly arrange the mechanisms for the transfer of power to indigenous hands. Throughout the deliberations the British had to contend with two prominent players: Gandhi and the Congress and Jinnah and the Muslim League. Jinnah laboured to find a suitable formula that addressed the mutual and different needs of the subcontinent's two major communities. When Pethick-Lawrence's mission proved unequal to the task of reconciling the parties, the last chance for a compromise solution was lost. Each of the major actors blamed the other for the breakdown in negotiations, with Jinnah insisting on the realization of the "two-nation theory." The goal now was nothing less than the creation of a sovereign, independent Pakistan. Like India, Pakistan achieved independence from British rule as a dominion within the Commonwealth on August 14-15, 1947, the former day celebrated annually as the country's Independence Day. However, the leaders of the Muslim League rejected Lord Mountbatten, the last British viceroy of India, to be Pakistan's first governor-general, or head of state – in contrast to the Congress, which made him India's chief executive. Wary of Britain's machinations and desirous of rewarding Jinnah – their "Great Leader" (Quaid-e Azam), a title he was given before independence – Pakistanis made him their governor-general; his lieutenant in the

party, Liaquat Ali Khan, was named prime minister. Pakistan's first government, however, had a difficult task before it. Unlike Muhammad Iqbal's earlier vision for Pakistan, the country had been formed from the two regions where Muslims were the majority – the northwestern portion he had espoused and the territories and the eastern region of Bengal province (which itself had also been divided between India and Pakistan). Pakistan's two wings, therefore, were separated by some 1,000 miles (1,600 km) of sovereign Indian territory with no simple routes of communication between them. Further complicating the work of the new Pakistani government was the realization that the wealth and resources of British India had been granted to India. Pakistan had little but raw enthusiasm to sustain it, especially during those months immediately following partition. In fact, Pakistan's survival seemed to hang in the balance. Of all the well-organized provinces of British India, only the comparatively less developed areas of Sind, Balochistan, and the North-West Frontier Province came to Pakistan intact. The otherwise more developed provinces of Punjab and Bengal were divided, and, in the case of Bengal, Pakistan received little more than the densely populated rural hinterland. Adding to the dilemma of the new and untested Pakistan government was the crisis in Kashmir, which provoked a war between the two neighbouring states in the period immediately following their independence. Both Pakistan and India intended to make Kashmir a component of their respective unions, and the former princely state quickly became disputed territory – with India and Pakistan controlling portions of it – and a flash point for future conflicts. Economically, the situation in Pakistan was desperate; materials from the Indian factories were cut off from Pakistan, disrupting the new country's meagre industry, commerce, and agriculture.

To be continued....

## Showbiz

### Kate Winslet makes sad admission about 'useless' Oscar

Kate Winslet slams sexism in Hollywood with bold statement



Kate Winslet is speaking out against sexism in Hollywood. The Oscar winner didn't hold back from expressing frustration over filmmakers and producers who do not support women-centered stories.

During an exclusive interview with DailyMail, the 48-year-old actress, who is starring in upcoming biopic Lee, about Elizabeth "Lee" Miller, shared her stance on raising funds for the film. She said, "I've been in this industry for a long time, won an Oscar. It doesn't make any f\*\*king difference when you're making a film about a historical female figure."

Recalling an experience from the film's production, Kate shared, "There was a backer who said to me, 'Why am I supposed to like this woman?' And I thought, 'Well, you're not going to be part of our film – so f\*\*k you.'" The actress, who is known for her role in 1997 Titanic, shared that she was more than happy to weed out the people she was adamant not to work with based on their reaction to the pitch. Kate said, "Actually, that was great. To be able to just go, 'We're only going to make it with nice people who understand the story we are trying to tell.'"

The upcoming film revolves around Elizabeth 'Lee' Miller, a fashion model who broke the mold to become a war correspondent for Vogue Magazine during World War II. Lee is slated to release on September 13, 2024.

## Tech

### 'It's Glowtime': Apple to officially unveil iPhone 16 lineup on September 9



Apple has confirmed the date for its annual iPhone-centric event, which is being called "It's Glowtime" this year, where the company is set to unveil a lineup of brand new devices that fans have been waiting for with bated breath. The phone-making giant announced Monday that the much-awaited event will take place on September 9 at the Apple Park campus in Cupertino, California. The event is scheduled to kick off at 10am Pacific Standard Time. At this year's event, Apple is set to unveil the iPhone 16 lineup, new Apple Watch models,

and the AirPods 4. Additionally, the tech company is expected to reveal the official launch dates for iOS 18, macOS Sequoia, and other software updates, according to MacRumors. All four of the new iPhones are expected to sport the customisable Action Button and a new Capture Button tailored for taking photos, equipped with built-in gestures, such as a swipe for zooming in and out or a soft press for autofocus. The Capture Button will be on the right side of the devices below the power button. Apple is also adding an A18 chip to all models, enabling the entire iPhone 16 lineup to support Apple Intelligence features that are coming in iOS 18.

While no other major new features are expected for the standard iPhone 16 models, the Pro lineup will get an increase in display size, going from 6.1 and 6.7 inches to 6.3 and 6.9 inches, respectively, for the Pro and Pro Max. Both models will also include the 5x Telephoto zoom option that was exclusive to the Pro Max last year.

## Health

### Africa to receive '100,000 mpox vaccines' from Germany

BERLIN: Germany will donate 100,000 mpox vaccine doses from its military stocks to help contain the outbreak on the African continent in the short term and help the affected countries, said a government spokesperson on Monday.

The government will provide the World Health Organization (WHO) with flexible financial resources via various instruments to combat mpox and also support its partners in Africa through the GAVI vaccination alliance, added the spokesperson.

Germany has around "117,000 doses of Jynneos", which is being stockpiled by the German army

Germans army has stockpiled "117,000 doses of Jynneos" since 2022

after Berlin procured it in 2022.

It will keep a minimum amount of stock, to protect travelling authorities, for example, said a defence ministry spokesperson on Monday. He added that a separate decision would need to be

made when it comes to reordering vaccines.

WHO has declared mpox a global public health emergency after an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo spread to neighbouring countries and a new form of the virus, clade 1b, triggered concerns about the speed of transmission.

The government was looking at the quickest way to get the vaccines to the affected countries, primarily the Democratic Republic of Congo, but also Burundi and neighbouring countries in East Africa, according to a foreign ministry spokesperson.





## PN's Commodore Muhammad Khalid promoted to Rank of Rear Admiral



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy's 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. He is a graduate of Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi and MS Oceanography from USA.

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 Economic Zone Protection Officers Course from UK, Pakistan Navy Staff Course from PN War College Lahore, Naval Staff Course from South Africa and National Security and War course from National Defence University Islamabad.

The Real 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 PAIMA and Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy. In recognition of his meritorious service, the Admiral was awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military). PR

## Govt resolute in countering terrorism: Rana Sana

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah Khan said on Tuesday that the government was resolutely committed to defeating terrorism and will thwart the nefarious plans of terrorists.

Talking to a private news channel, he said this issue was being taken with the utmost seriousness and that there was no room for leniency.

He said the political dimensions of the issue were important, and both the federal and provincial governments were involved in addressing it.

Advisor said that there was need for a fruitful discussion and comprehensive debate in National assembly on the political dimensions of the matter.

He called for detailed discussions reflecting the views of people from Balochistan and southern Punjab, suggesting that a cohesive strategy should be developed based on these discussions.

"The federal, provincial governments and all security agencies were united in its approach to resolving the situation," he said.

Regarding political alliances, he confirmed that Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman has maintained his distinct identity and was not part of any alliance against government.

However, he assured that the government was open to discussions with Maulana Fazlur Rehman or any other political party on both political and constitutional matters. APP



ISLAMABAD: 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.

## President Zardari for further strengthening strategic cooperation with China

Says enemies of Pakistan & China did not want our bilateral relations to flourish

### VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: 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.

President Asif Ali Zardari 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. Welcoming the Chinese Commander, President Asif Ali Zardari 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.

The President remarked that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has his



initiative, envisioned during his previous tenure as the President of Pakistan. He said that enemies of Pakistan and China did not want our bilateral relations to flourish, adding the two countries should work closely to overcome

shared challenges.

Highlighting the importance of Pak-China friendship, General Li Qiaoming said that the friendship between the two countries was unbreakable. He added that both countries needed to work together to fight terrorism. He also condemned yesterday's terrorist attacks in Pakistan and offered his heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Pakistan over the loss of life.

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 on Tuesday.

The Chinese Commander thanked the President for the conferment of the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) and said that the award was a testimony of the strong bonds between the two countries.

Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and other high ranking civil and military officials from both Pakistan and China graced the event.

## Abdul Aleem Khan strongly condemns the recent terrorism incidents & target killing of Punjabis in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has strongly condemned the recent terrorism incidents and target killing of Punjabis in Balochistan. Abdul Aleem Khan expressed his 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 in order 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 to combat the monster of terrorism and suppress it. President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan has further said that whenever the journey of development and stability begins in the country, anti-national elements start such heinous conspiracies.

Meanwhile, Abdul Aleem Khan has paid homage to the martyrdom of security personnel during the beheading of terrorists. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan has said that the brave sons of the nation have raised the national flag by sacrificing their lives for the sanctity of this beloved motherland. Abdul Aleem Khan was called on by President of IPP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa G.G. Jamal, Member of National Assembly of IPP Ali Asghar Bhagour, former MPA Niaz Gashkuri and other party leaders who all also supported the national cause and expressed their deep concern on the recent wave of terrorism. SABAH

## Terrorists deserve no concession; Irfan Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Parliamentary leader in the Senate, Senator Irfan Ahmad Siddiqui on Tuesday said terrorists does not deserve any concession and factors that provoke terrorism must be dealt with iron hands.

While speaking on the recent terror incidents in Balochistan, he said the recent violence showed hostile elements taking up arms against innocent civilians to shed their blood which was bleak moment for humanity. Taking to the floor, Senator Irfan called the government for a collective strategy at the Senate to probe the factors responsible for such kind of incidents. Commenting on the members of the house's suggestions for talks with insurgents, he said that these elements playing in the hands of the country's enemies must be brought accountable to the constitution of Pakistan and made respectful to the flag of Pakistan.

Irfan said that it was the basic responsibility of the State to provide security to its residents and save their lives while unhelpfully during the previous regime the terrorists were brought back and released from the jails that resulted in resurgence of crimes and terrorist attacks. Siddiqui also called for the implementation of the National Action Plan devised in 2014 after the Army Public School attack for countering terrorism and extremism in the country.



BEIJING: A group photo of Pakistan China media delegation with Pakistan's Ambassador to China H.E. Khalil Hashmi at Pakistan House.

## Senate Petroleum Committee discusses gas supply & captive power plants amidst rising costs

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum convened on Tuesday at the Parliament House under the chairmanship of Senator Umer Farooq. The session began with a discussion on the cessation of gas supply to captive power plants, a move outlined under the current government policy. Senator Mohsin Aziz highlighted that industries have invested in power plants with 50% efficiency to meet their energy needs. The Director General of Gas reported to the committee that 1,180 captive power plants are operational across the country, consuming 358 million cubic meters per day (mmcmd) of gas. These plants were established under the 2005 government policy, with 797 located in Sindh. Attempts to audit these plants were unsuccessful, and a proposal from the Petroleum Division suggested transferring these plants to the national grid. However, the Petroleum Division has not advocated for shutting down these plants; instead, the Power Division recommended to the IMF that these plants be closed. The Power Division argues that transitioning the industrial sector to grid power would eliminate capacity charges on the electricity grid. Currently, no subsidies are provided for gas supply to captive power plants.

Senator Mohsin Aziz expressed concerns that the caretaker government lacks the authority to make decisions on this matter, while Senator Abdul Qadir criticized the caretaker administration for increasing gas prices three times. Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Masood Malik addressed the committee, noting structural issues in the sector. He pointed out that some industries in Sindh benefited from lower electricity costs compared to others, which he said was detrimental to the industry as

a whole. The committee resolved to address the matter further in an in-camera session and requested a briefing from the Minister of Petroleum on the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline.

The committee also received an update on the performance of government-held private company, HPL. CEO Masood Nabi stated that the company aims to boost local oil and gas production and has invested in Ricodic, holding a 25% government stake. He added that GHPL has imported 300 LNG cargoes, with four arriving at the terminal and two being from the private sector; ten cargoes are received monthly. Minister Malik reported a 1.7% annual gas availability shortage and highlighted that domestic gas production stands at 3 billion cubic feet. He noted that 1,600 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd) of gas is supplied to domestic consumers and emphasized ongoing efforts to expedite oil and gas exploration. Malik mentioned that there is an ample supply of LNG and outlined the challenges in securing investor guarantees from the government for bank loans. He also suggested that capacity payments are used to subsidize air-conditioner use for the elite. The government is seeking \$20 billion in investment from friendly countries and is committed to competitive investment practices. Minister Malik urged stakeholders to identify and correct any issues. Senator Rana Mehmood-ul-Hassan inquired about progress on the boards of government companies and the absence of a future CEO for OGDCL. The Petroleum Minister responded that OGDCL's CEO appointment is the Board's responsibility and noted that OGDCL is now part of the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund. SABAH

## 'Foolproof security arrangements made for Chehlum'

RAWALPINDI: Foolproof security arrangements were made for the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), said Regional Police Officer, Rawalpindi Region, Babar Sarfraz Alpa. He said that over 4,600 well-equipped cops and officers were deployed to ensure security foolproof.

Similarly, 215 traffic wardens and officers were also deployed for the smooth flow of traffic on city roads and to facilitate the mourners, he informed. City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani said that monitoring of the main procession was ensured with the help of CCTV cameras besides aerial surveillance. Police personnel were also deployed on top of high-rise buildings on the route of the Chehlum procession, he said. The RPO and CPO also appreciated the efforts of the cops to maintain peace and order in the Chehlum.

The processions of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) Chehlum, taken out from different localities of the city after passing through their traditional routes culminated peacefully on Monday night.

## 'New banking model introduced for transparent BISP payment to deserving women'



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of 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. APP

## Pak-Oman BPC review bilateral cooperation



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

The BPC also discussed Pakistan-Oman cooperation at multilateral fora. Noting the importance of Joint Ministerial Commission, the two sides agreed to hold the 8th session at an early date in Islamabad. The two sides also agreed to further elevate bilateral trade volume and to enhance investment cooperation. The Omani side was invited to invest in agriculture, minerals and Informa-

tion Technology under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The Omani side expressed support for the First Pakistani Business Expo to be held in Muscat on 13-14 October 2024. It also welcomed Pakistan's decision to give visas on arrival to Omani nationals.

Regional and global matters of mutual concern were also discussed. Additional foreign secretary (Middle East) appreciated the Sultanate of Oman for its persistent and princ-

pled support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The two sides also expressed serious concerns on Israel's war on Gaza and the genocide of the Palestinian people.

They stressed the need for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire and reiterated the call for the creation of a viable, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine.

The Pakistani delegation also called on the Under Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs, Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali

bin Issa Al-Harthi.

The under secretary shared Oman's desire to further strengthen Pakistan-Oman relations and to advance bilateral dialogue and cooperation.

"The Bilateral Political Consultations are an important dialogue mechanism between Pakistan and Oman to comprehensively review bilateral relations and to explore new areas of cooperation to further solidify the historic and strategic ties between the two countries," it was added. APP