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Vowing to end terrorism: PM Shehbaz pledges full support to military

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has resolved to end terrorism in Pakistan, promising to provide the military with all necessary resources to combat the threat.

The premier declared, "There is no room for terrorism. The time has come to end it. We will provide the military with whatever resources it needs."

PM Shehbaz condemned the ongoing violence in Balochistan, noting that the terrorism there cannot be condemned enough. He also highlighted attempts by terrorists to create discord between Pakistan and China.

He asserted that talks will only be held with groups that accept Pakistan's constitution and stated that talks will not be conducted with entities he described as "friendly enemies."

The remarks came during a meeting of Federal Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and convened to discuss the overall situation of the country in the after-

math of a series of terrorist and militant attacks a day earlier.

The meeting, was set to discuss a broad range of issues, with a focus on national security and the recent surge in terrorist activities.

As the discussions unfold, the cabinet is anticipated to take crucial decisions aimed at stabilising the country amidst growing security concerns.

Series of attacks jolt Balochistan Balochistan province, already grappling with instability, faced multiple attacks in various districts on Monday.

The attacks began with the destruction of the Dozan railway bridge in the mountainous Bolan Valley. This critical infrastructure linked Balochistan with Sindh and Punjab via a train service. Reports indicated that its destruction has severed a vital connection, and further isolated the province.

The Musakhail district witnessed the most horrific incident in which 23 passengers were forced off a bus and brutally slain one after another.



President Asif Ali Zardari holds a meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti.

Every possible step should be taken to improve security situation of Balochistan: President

APP

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari says every possible step should be taken to improve security situation of Balochistan.

He was talking to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti who called on him today.

The meeting was briefed regarding the recent incidents of terrorism in Balochistan.

In the meeting, proposals regarding the maintaining law and order in Balochistan were also discussed.

The President stressed on the need for effective measures for the complete elimination of terrorists.

A statement issued by the President House said proposals regarding the establishment of law and

order in Balochistan were discussed, while Zardari stressed the need for effective measures for the "complete elimination of terrorists".

"All possible steps should be taken to improve the security situation in Balochistan," the president told the two officials.

In Musakhail, militants killed 23 people after checking their ID documents. In Khadkocho, they blocked a highway, stormed a police station, and held Levies officials hostage.

In Kalat, attacks on a Levies station, two hotels, and a tribal elder's residence left 11 dead and nine injured. Meanwhile, six bodies were found in Bolan's Kolpur area, believed to have been shot by militants. In response, security forces neutralised 21 militants, as CM Bugti and the interior minister vowed to eliminate terrorism in the province.

Senators call for joint strategy to eliminate terrorism

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Members of the Senate have called for evolving a joint strategy to eliminate the scourge of terrorism from the soil of Pakistan.

Taking part in the debate on the recent incidents of terrorism in various parts of the country, especially Balochistan, they said a healthy debate on this issue should be held among politicians, intellectuals, and scholars to find a way forward. They said everyone should sit-together for the sake of Pakistan by setting aside political differences.

The Senators also called for introspection to overcome shortcomings and weaknesses in the past policies. They, however, said negotiations can only be held with those, who believe in the integrity and the constitution of Pakistan. Those, who spoke on the occasion, include Aimal Wali Khan, Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, Irfan Siddiqui, Sherry Rehman, Manzoor Kakar, Mohsin Aziz, Shahzaib Durrani, Abdul Shakoor Khan, Muhammad Qasim, Nasir Mehmood Butt, Saifullah Abro, and Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur.

Police Dept plays key role in protecting people's lives: Governor

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandukhail on Tuesday the police department has a key role in protecting people's lives, property and eliminating crimes from the areas.

He shared these views while talking to officers under training of National Police Academy Islamabad called on him at Governor House here.

The Governor said that even today there was a high demand for good and honest government officials everywhere.

"Build such a reputation and character that positions follow you everywhere" he said adding

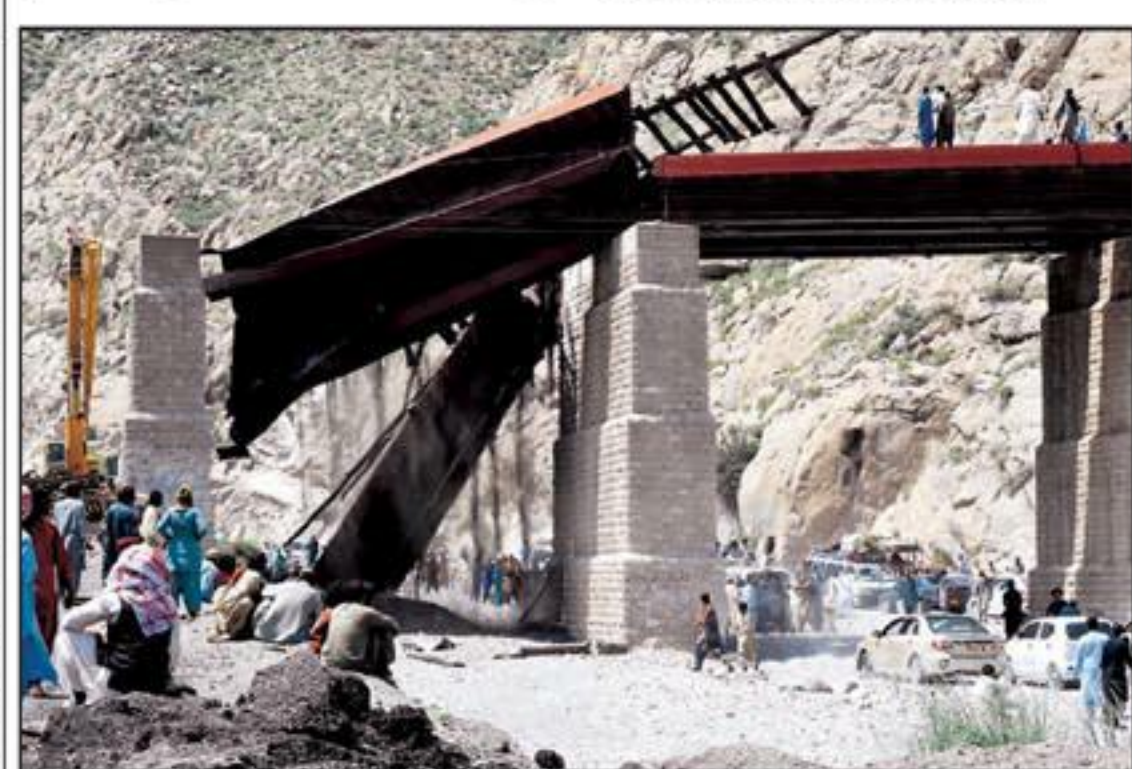
that a competent and honest officer could improve the destiny of the entire region.

He said that police officers would use their intelligence and spirit of service for public interests adding that after completion of professional training, there were great expectations of good governance from your officers.

Police officers and police personnel should focus on their duties beyond all kinds of fear and greed, he noted.

In the end, commemorative shields were

exchanged between Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandukhail and Course Commander Daniyal Javed.



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

Local commander among 25 terrorists killed so far in Tirah IBOs since August 20: ISPR

ISPR says four soldiers, having fought gallantly, embraced martyrdom during multiple intel-based operations

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: At least 25 terrorists, including a ring leader, were gunned down by security forces in multiple ongoing intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Tirah valley of Khyber district since August 20, the military's media wing said on Tuesday.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the security forces are conducting "extensive IBOs" in Tirah valley against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) labelled as Fitna-Al-Khwarizj and militant outfits "Laskar-e-Islam and Jamat-ul-Ahrar".

These operations, it said, were based on robust intelligence and resulted into major setbacks to Fitna-Al-Khwarizj and its affiliates.

During the intelligence-based operations being conducted since August 20, the security forces so far killed 25 terrorists, including a ring leader named Abuzar aka Saddam.

"However, four soldiers, having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced martyrdom", the ISPR added.

"The heavy losses inflicted upon Fitna-Al-Khwarizj in these operations is testament to the valor and commitment of security forces to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country," it concluded.

On Aug 25, terrorists attacked a check post in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Central Kurram, resulting in martyrdom of one policeman. Similarly, security forces killed seven terrorists and wounded five others during an IBO in the Kurram district earlier this month.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman backs nationwide traders' strike on August 28

Inflation and unjust taxes have made it impossible for people to live: JUI-F chief

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the chief of his own faction of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), has announced his support for the nationwide traders' strike scheduled for August 28.

He stated that the strike is fully endorsed, emphasising that inflation and unjust taxes have made life unbearable for the public.

"We fully support tomorrow's strike by traders across the country," said Rehman. "Inflation and unjust taxes have made it impossible for people to live."

The JUI-F chief criticised the budget, claiming it was formulated under the directives of the International Monetary Fund

(IMF). "The IMF-imposed budget has snatched the bread from the people's mouths," he said, urging JUI-F members to ensure the strike remains peaceful and successful. "JUI-F business forums across the country should actively participate in this strike," he added. The Central Organisation of Traders and All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajirun have called for the nationwide shutter-down strike in protest against the so-called "trader-unfriendly" scheme and taxes. In a joint press conference, Kashif Chaudhry and Ajmal Baloch said, "We reject the so-called trader-friendly scheme as it is unworkable. The anti-trader scheme should be withdrawn immediately, and withholding taxes on essential items like pulses and flour must be abolished."



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet held in Islamabad

No operation needed in Balochistan, single SHO enough to end terrorism: Naqvi

Interior Minister condemned recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan, calling it unacceptable

APP

QUETTA: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has stated that there is no need for a major operation in Balochistan, as the terrorists operating there can be dealt with by a single Station House Officer (SHO).

He assured that the terrorists would soon receive a "clear message."

Naqvi made these remarks during a press conference in Quetta alongside Balochistan Chief Minister Sardar Sarfraz Bugti.

He emphasised that the purpose of his visit was to demonstrate solidarity with the people of Balochistan and to assure them that the federal government fully supports the provincial leadership.

"The federal government is standing firmly behind Chief Minister Bugti, who will have our full backing in whatever decisions he makes," Mohsin said.

He added that while some efforts in Balochistan are visible, much more is happening behind the scenes.

Addressing the recent surge in violence, Naqvi expressed deep concern over the incidents, calling them unacceptable.

"These acts of terror are intolerable, but they cannot intimidate us. The terrorists will soon receive a strong message," he asserted.

Responding to a journalist's question, Naqvi clarified that the Balochistan government is fully alert and more determined than ever to confront terrorism.

He dismissed the need for a large-scale operation, reiterating that the terrorists are only a minor threat.

"These terrorists have attacked from hiding. If they had the courage, they would face us directly. Our forces are well-equipped to deal with them, and their elimination will not require extensive operations," Naqvi explained.

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti highlighted the challenges of securing Balochistan's vast terrain, noting that terrorists often exploit isolated areas to carry out attacks.

He assured that the government is actively responding to these threats. Pakistan's Balochistan province has recently seen an uptick in violence, including target killings and mil-

itant attacks.

Meanwhile, Balochistan experienced one of its most violent days recently, with over 40 lives lost in multiple terrorist attacks across various districts.

The deadliest incident occurred in Musakhail, where 23 passengers were executed after being offloaded from a bus. In Kalat, an attack on security forces resulted in 10 deaths, including both civilians and security personnel.

In response to the attacks on innocent civilians, the military sprung into action and wiped out 21 suspected militants, while a major terrorist attack was thwarted in the Lasbela district.

Addressing a Cabinet Meeting called over the overall security and law and order situation in the country, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated the government's resolve to end terrorism in Pakistan, promising to provide the military with all necessary resources to combat the threat.

The premier declared, "There is no room for terrorism. The time has come to end it. We will provide the military with whatever resources it needs."

China offers counter-terrorism support after deadly Balochistan attacks

INP

BEIJING: China has strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan and expressed deep condolences to the victims, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian, responding to a question at a daily press briefing, stated, "China firmly opposes all forms of terrorism and will continue to firmly support Pakistan in advancing counter-terrorism operations, maintaining social unity and stability, and protecting people's safety."

The attacks, which occurred on Sunday night, saw terrorists targeting Pakistani security forces and police across multiple locations in Balochistan. The assailants stopped vehicles, killed innocent civilians, and destroyed infrastructure, including roads and railways.

"China is willing to further strengthen counter-terrorism and security cooperation with Pakistan to jointly safeguard regional peace and security," Lin added.

Balochistan has witnessed a surge in violence recently, including targeted killings and militant attacks. On Sunday night, around 40 people were killed in one of the province's most violent days, with incidents spread across various districts.

The deadliest attack took place in Musakhail, where 23 passengers were executed after being removed from a bus. In Kalat, an attack on security forces left 10 dead, comprising both civilians and military personnel.

In response, the Pakistani military launched operations, killing 21 terrorists and thwarting a major terrorist attack in the Lasbela district.

PM directs measures to improve law and order situation in Balochistan

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed to take all possible steps to improve the law and order situation in Balochistan.

He was talking to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti who called on him in Islamabad today.

The Chief Minister Balochistan gave a detailed briefing to the Prime Minister on the security and overall situation of Balochistan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said yesterday's terrorist attacks in Balochistan were cowardly acts which cannot be justified.

He said our brave security forces foiled the terrorists' ambitions by sacrificing their lives.

The Prime Minister also directed to identify terrorists and take strong action against them.

Pakistan, Oman stress urgent, unconditional ceasefire in Gaza

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Oman have underlined the need for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and creation of a viable, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine.

The resolve was expressed during eighth session of the Pakistan-Oman Bilateral Political Consultations, which were held in Muscat city of Oman today.

Additional Foreign Secretary (Middle East), Ambassador Shehryar Akbar Khan led the Pakistani side, while 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, represented his country.

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

Regional and global matters of mutual concern were also discussed in the session.

The two sides also comprehensively reviewed all aspects of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Oman, including political relations, trade and investment, security and defence, culture, health and consular matters. Pakistan-Oman cooperation at multilateral fora was also discussed. The two sides also agreed to further elevate bilateral trade volume and to enhance investment cooperation.

NAB Balochistan holds open Court

Press Release

Quetta: In compliance to the instructions of the Chairman, NAB (B) holds Open Court (Khuli Kachehri) on the last Thursday of every month for inviting complaints from general public regarding mega financial scams in Balochistan province.

The Director General NAB personally listens to the complainants therein. In order to provide easy access to the complainants, Open Court will be organized on 29th August 2024 at 11:00 am to 01:00 pm at NAB Complaint Office situated at DC Office, Anscome Road, Quetta.

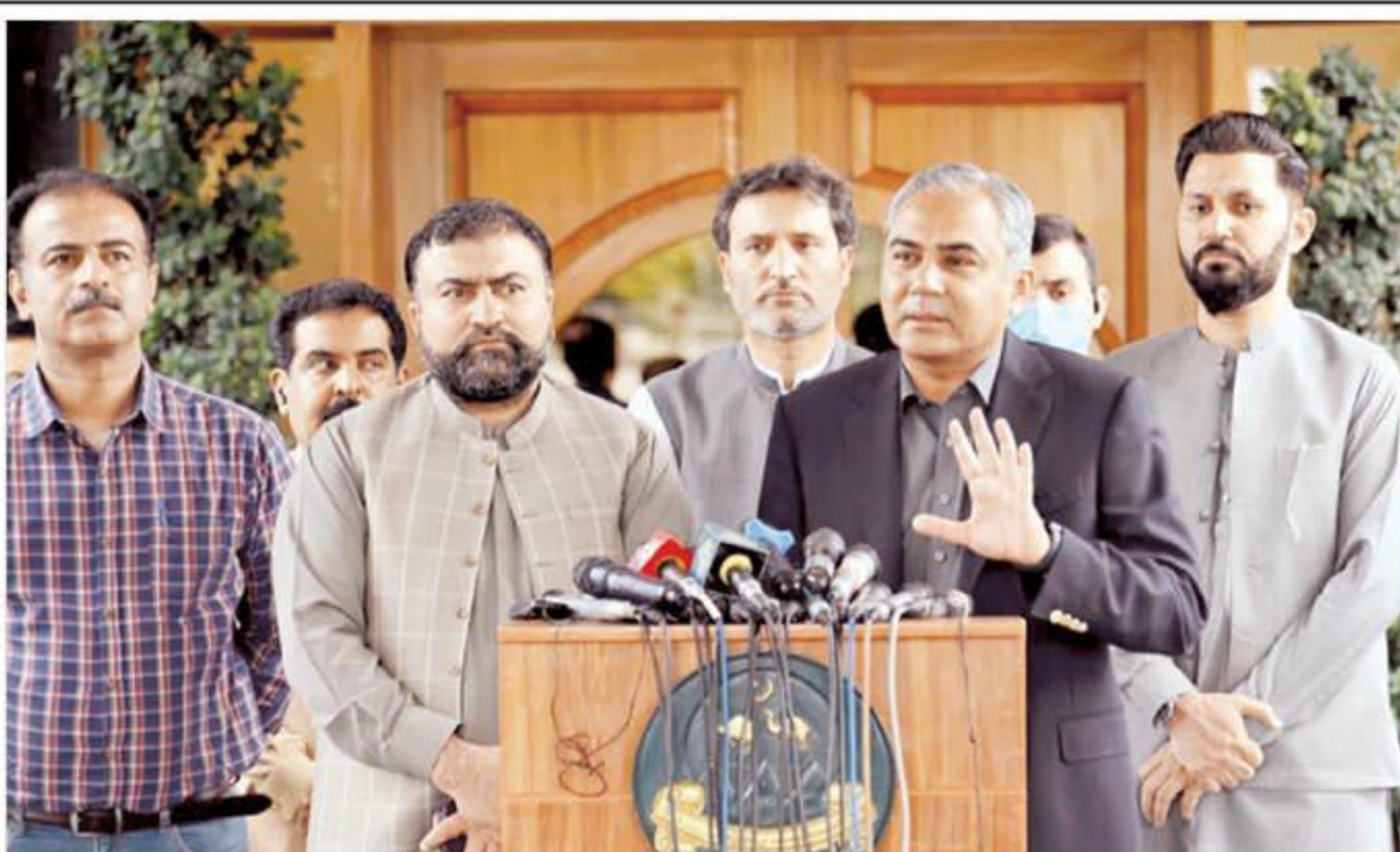
- 1. Name with parentage. 2. Copy of Computerized National Identity Card. 3. Complete Postal Address. 4. Thumb Impression / Signature. 5. Contact Information: Cell / Landline number / e-mail

NAB will no longer proceed on anonymous complaints. Only verified complaints which are within the purview of NAB will be dealt with according to the law. NAB (B) will proceed on such complaints after obtaining affidavit on stamp paper from the complainants.

The general public is informed that complaint can be lodged with NAB in the following manner:

- 1. By post / in person at NAB office Shakra-e-Gulistan Road Quetta Cantt. 2. Through E-mail (balochistan@nab.gov.pk) 3. By post / in person at NAB complaints office situated at DC office Anscome Road Quetta. 4. Through an Open Court while meeting with Director General (last Thursday of every month).

For more information, please contact Regional Complaint Cell NAB (Balochistan) on following numbers: 081-9203614, 081-9203468.



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

Majority of Young American Muslims and Liberal Jews Aligned in Support of Donald Trump for 2024 Election



By Khawaja Farooq

In a surprising twist to the upcoming U.S. presidential election, recent polling data reveals a dramatic shift in voter preferences among traditionally Democratic-leaning groups. Notably, 95% of the American Muslim community, particularly among the younger generation, and a significant portion of liberal and educated Jewish voters are now rallying behind former President Donald Trump.

According to the latest surveys, a substantial majority of young American Muslims have expressed strong support for Trump's 2024 candidacy. This shift is attributed to his firm stance on avoiding new military conflicts and his promise to end existing ones. The current administration's foreign policy, which many within this demographic view as ineffective or overly interventionist, has significantly impacted their decision.



Trump's proposals to revive the American economy, which emphasize deregulation, tax cuts, and incentives for businesses, have found a receptive audience among those struggling with economic uncertainty. In an even more surprising development, this trend of support has extended to liberal and educated Jewish voters. Traditionally a stronghold for Democratic candidates, this group has shown increased enthusiasm for Trump's economic policies.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Officer District Council Panjgur District Panjgur invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023, GOB, from interested contractors/firms for the supply of items listed below under Grant in Aid (2023-24). Tender fee Rs. 1000/-

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Name of Work, E/Cost. Includes items like Supply Of Home Solar Set For Different Area Of District Panjgur.

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules 2014. ELIGIBILITY: The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category (C-06) and above and registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN and Sales Tax Department) where applicable.

CHIEF OFFICER DISTRICT COUNCIL PANJGUR DISTRICT PANJGUR

Martyred soldiers laid to rest with full military honours

APP

RAWALPINDI: The valiant soldiers of Pakistan Army, who were martyred in various terror attacks in Balochistan, were laid to rest with full military honours in their respective native areas. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), their funeral prayers and burial were attended by senior Pakistan Army officials, soldiers, the martyrs' family members, and a large number of local dignitaries.

Step afoot to provide health facilities to people in Kohlu: DC

APP

Quetta: Deputy Commissioner Kohlu Aqil Karim Baloch on Tuesday said that measures were being taken to provide health care facilities to people at district headquarters hospital. He said this while visiting district

headquarters hospital Kohlu. The DC also inspected to different wards of DHQ and checked the attendance of paramedical staff. He also inquired about the health of patients and provision of medical facilities. The DC was briefed regarding district head-

quarters hospital and its matters by concerned doctor. Expressing his satisfaction on presence of paramedical staff, he said that district administration was striving to provide basic amenities including quality health facilities to people on timely in the area.

He also assured paramedical staff that he would take possible steps to address issues of them in order to improve quality of health services for the patients. Meanwhile, the DC Karim Baloch also inspected Levies Check post at Tumpoo cross and examined the attendance of the Levies personnel.

The DC said that no negligence would be tolerated during duty times saying that efforts were underway to enhance capacity of Levies force to maintain peace in the area.

He said that officers should ensure attendance of personnel so that personnel of the force were on duty at all times, the recent actions of the levies against criminals were commendable.

CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are invited from Qualified Individuals for contract positions in Project Management Unit 'Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development' based in Quetta. The applicants must be professionally sound and possess requisite qualification, relevant work experience, skills and expertise as given below:

Table with 4 columns: S.No, Propose Positions, No. of Position, Requirement. Includes positions like Water Bowser Operator and Helper.

The Contract will be for one year, extendable subject to satisfactory performance. Requirements: 1. Age limit 43 years. 2. Must be Balochistan Local/Domicile Holder. 3. The candidates are required to appear in Interview for the positions on 21st September, 2024 at 02:00 PM along with CVs and Original testimonials at the address given below.

PROJECT DIRECTOR Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer-Buildings CWPP&H Department District Naseerabad, invites sealed percentage rate tender based on composite schedule of rate 2023, Government of Balochistan amended up-to date from interested contractor / firms for the works listed below: Earnest Money 2%, Time limit 24 Months

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Name of Work, E/Cost. Includes Construction of RHC at village Mir Bahram Khan Buledi Tehsil Tamboo Naseerabad.

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014. BASIC ELIGIBILITY: The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category C-5 or above in relevant discipline C-10 and registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN & Sales Tax Department), where applicable.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BUILDING) CWPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT NASEERABAD

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Maintenance Division-II C&W, PP&H invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Name of Work/s, E/Cost. Includes Construction of Janazgah (RCC) 1 No Quarter with attached bath, fiber shade and B/Wall.

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work. Power of Attorney, Green Challan of Rs. 1000/- for each work deposited through Government Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan in the head of account C-02716.

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BUILDINGS) CW/PP&H Department District Kohlu invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Name of Work/s, E/Cost. Includes CONSTRUCTION OF ONE QUARTER FOR MEDICAL OFFICER & 2 QUARTERS FOR STAFF AT BHU KILLI MIRAKBAR.

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 14,00,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE09(i) (Sewerage Works), CE09(ii) (Water Supply), CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), CE10(ii) (Concrete Repairs), CE10(iii) (General Buildings and Maintenance), CE11(i) (General engineering Works only).

Executive Engineer (Buildings) CW,PP&H Department District Kohlu

اشہار برائے اسپیشل سپورٹ پروگرام

تشریح برائے طبی وظائف امداد برائے علاج معالجہ اور امداد برائے ناور، فریب افراد، ازل (انٹیکل سپورٹ پروگرام) حکومت بلوچستان کی جانب سے (انٹیکل سپورٹ پروگرام) کے تحت ملحقہ محکمہ صحت اور صحت کے طبی اہلکاروں کو فراہم کیا جائے گا۔

Table with 6 columns: No, Name of Work, E/Cost, and other details for Special Sports Program.

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Member APNS

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Balochistan attacks

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

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

ISPR asserted that the security forces and law-enforcement agencies responded immediately to these criminal attacks, especially in Musakhail, Kalat and Lasbela, and killed 21 terrorists in ensuing clearance operations. However, it also said that 10 security forces soldiers and four LEAs personnel were martyred during the operation.

These horrific attacks suggest that Baloch militants have intensified their violent campaign against the state and security forces. The army has vowed to bring the “instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts to justice”.

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

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

By Ashraf Jehangir Qazi

Improving India-Pakistan ties

NEVER have India-Pakistan relations been so bad for so long. They barely exist today. In a polarised but interdependent world, with the Domsday Clock tick-tocking towards midnight, this is an unfortunate situation, to put it mildly.

The need for improved relations between these neighbouring nuclear weapons countries, one with the largest population in the world and the other with the fifth largest, should be obvious.

Pakistan, as the smaller of the two countries, has a relatively greater interest in restoring at least a minimum of exchanges and cooperation, and the restoration of informal or indirect discussion on how to address the more serious differences in a mutually acceptable manner. India, on the contrary, has evinced a more or less complete lack of interest in any substantive interaction with Pakistan. It sees Pakistan as a failing terrorist state with few, if any, options from which it merely needs to protect itself. Accordingly, it sees no point in entering into discussions with such a state.

How can discussions between the two countries be more fruitful?

Even in Track 2 meetings, these attitudes prevent any serious discussions which could feed back into official policies of the two countries towards each other. Discussions, even when friendly and polite, tend to degenerate into accusations and counteraccusations reflecting official, indeed national, attitudes towards each other. They tend to become zero-sum point-scoring, which eventually becomes uninteresting and a waste of time.

The question arises: how can a broader spectrum of people from both countries, including officials, intellectuals, journalists, business people, all kinds of professionals and specialists, cultural representatives, students, tourists, etc, have greater interaction with each other which could, over time, feed positively into political attitudes towards each other?

In the absence of such a process, discussions on any issue, whether Kashmir, terrorism, water issues, treatment of minorities, increasing trade and investment, confidence building measures or other items on the agendas of past dialogues, become infructuous.

So, how can discussions between the two

countries be more fruitful? Two conditions need to be met. One, the interlocutors must share an objective which they believe is attainable. And two, the interlocutors should have the capacity to introspect and acknowledge the need to address the concerns of each other.

This is not easy. Recently, when an Indian acquaintance asked how India-Pakistan relations might move forward, I suggested Pakistan might ask itself what it might do to address some Indian concerns, and India needed to similarly ask itself what it might do to address Pakistani concerns. He responded saying India needed to tell Pakistan to forget Kashmir, stop its terrorism, accept it had lost its contest with India, accept India's dominance in South Asia, and accordingly disband its nuclear arsenal. I suggested he may have articulated India's goals but did not seem motivated by any desire to address Pakistan's concerns. Instead, he was likely to elicit a matching response that India refrain from policies of hegemony, interference, assassinations, genocide, etc. That would, of course, end the discussion.

So, can we move beyond such barren exchanges? To the extent that some accusations may be justified, they should be addressed, even unilaterally. Accordingly, can we fashion a substantive statement on some of the outstanding issues between our countries, including those of core concern, along with agreed recommendations which we might refer to our respective governments for consideration?

Given mutual empathy, not just personally, but also as citizens of estranged neighbouring countries which share so much in common, we might begin to make progress towards overcoming the obstacle of a common but turbulent history which has ‘over-shaped’ our attitudes towards each other. Instead, we might allow more room for what we share in common to inform and broaden our attitudes towards each other.

Such conversations will need to be progressively elevated to Track 2, Track 1.5 and official levels. Can we agree that such a process should get started as soon as possible? If so, can we agree on reviving Saarc, which currently is moribund? Can we revive confidence

and security building measures which have been agreed upon, implemented, and cancelled or allowed to fall into disuse? Can we, in today's circumstances, summon the political will, despite the risks, to seriously probe the possibilities for an improvement in relations? Or are countervailing forces just too strong and the will to overcome them just too weak?

A whole new generation of Indians and Pakistanis need to know more about each other and why they feel and think about each other the way they do. They may discover they agree on much more than they thought. Should that happen, addressing each other's concerns may become much less intractable than it seems today.

With exchanges of all kinds, lobbies for mutual understanding and mutual profit can emerge, especially in bordering regions. Such lobbies are likely to have far more influence than academics, experts and intellectuals in the politics and government decision-making of their countries.

Apart from the potential of cross-border trade and other exchanges, Indians and Pakistanis, no matter what the state of their diplomatic relations, remain incorrigibly interested in each other as people — in their art, entertainment and sports.

Coke Studio Pakistan, for example, seems to have more fans in India than in Pakistan. Javelin throwers Arshad Nadeem and Neeraj Chopra momentarily brought our two people closer not

just with their outstanding performances in the Paris Olympics, but with their mutual friendship and support — and topping them were their mothers, who described the two champion athletes as their sons.

Unfortunately, politicians and governments of both countries, as well as specific interests, are less large-hearted and are more obstacles than facilitators. This is an initial and understandable given.

But people of goodwill, imagination and determination must begin to make a difference if India, Pakistan and South Asia — home to a fourth of humanity — are to move from conflict management to dispute resolution — and collectively help bring about a safer, more prosperous and happier world.

By Jawed Naqvi

As Modi tries to disown Nehru

A CURSORY glance at Wikipedia shows that Pakistan has had as close a relationship with UK—rain as India ever had, or possibly better, including vital defence ties. In fact, in the late 1990s, shortly after gaining independence, Ukraine sold Pakistan 320 Ukrainian T-80UD main battle tanks in a deal worth \$650 million. According to the Kyiv Post, the deal literally saved Kharkiv Malyshev Tank Factory from bankruptcy.

According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute databases, from 1991 to 2020, Ukraine completed arms contracts with Pakistan with a total value of nearly \$1.6 billion. After war broke out between Ukraine and Russia, Pakistan continued to support Ukraine's “sovereignty and territorial integrity”, which is the precise phrase Prime Minister Narendra Modi used as he hugged President Volodymyr Zelensky in widely televised images on India's behalf in Kiev on Aug 23. On the other hand, Ukraine's foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba, during an earlier visit to Pakistan, thanked the country for supporting Ukraine's stance on its sovereignty and security. India's ace TV journalist Karan Thapar has quoted a host of things that Zelensky told Modi or said of him that breached diplomatic courtesy.

As with India, Pakistan has also been mostly consistent in abstaining on UN resolutions on Russia and has avoided criticising Moscow. So what did Modi do or say in his much-hyped meeting with Zelensky which takes the story forward? What was the point of departure?

In the absence of a clearer official explanation, one is tempted to see the tight hug of Zelensky as a sweetener for the following day's defence talks with the Pentagon team in New Delhi.

The two sides upgraded their defence ties on Aug 24, with China in the crosshairs. The package of deals, including intelligence and surveillance support, would have perhaps looked rather odd in the backdrop of the globally watched embrace Modi was locked in with President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

Modi has been slammed at home by political critics for allegedly posing for photo-ops dressed as diplomatic gain. In this context, recent events may be deemed instructive. Regardless of the explanation available in official quarters in Pakistan — and allowing for accepting that two events that otherwise looked intertwined were not actually linked, as is so unremarkably claimed — Imran Khan was forced out of power after meeting Putin in Moscow after Russia attacked Ukraine. Likewise, in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wajed was evicted from power and luckily found sanctuary in India days after visiting Beijing.

Another foreign trip of Modi that raised eyebrows in Delhi, although it went largely unnoticed elsewhere, was when he was barely sworn in for a third term. Inexplicably, he dashed off to Rome. The ostensible purpose was to join an audience of Global South invitees to watch the spectacle of a G7 summit. Of the other invitees, not everyone found the time or saw the need to show up.

There were two clips from the Modi visit that offer a telltale record of the spectacular non-event. One was shown by TV channels close to the prime minister. The other found its way to regale followers of YouTube news channels. The clip played on TV showed a selfie of Modi and his Italian host, Prime Minister Georgio Meloni, in which he grinned from ear to ear with a likeness to Peter Sellers playing Hurundi

Bakshi in The Party. Meloni, on the other hand, had the time of her life by inventing a name for the clip — “Melodi”.

The other video showed Modi looking impatient behind a screen, waiting alone to be escorted to his car. Busy Italian officials appeared more focused on the arriving and departing G7 leaders. Here, too, an explanation for the visit has not been easy to figure out. The last trip to Rome by a Pakistani leader shows up a troubling fact for India. It was president Pervez Musharraf in 2004, who signed off the trip to Rome with a declaration with the host, both agreeing to oppose the expansion of the UN Security Council membership, a not so oblique reference to India's aspirations. If Modi succeeded in changing the Italian stand before or after the Meloni clip, he would deserve to be applauded for a diplomatic breakthrough.

Modi has been slammed at home by political critics for allegedly posing for photo-ops dressed as diplomatic gain. Adding to the problem is the towering presence of his bête noire, Jawaharlal Nehru, on the diplomatic firmament. Modi was hosting senior African leaders at the start of his first tenure as prime minister. He gave them a long spiel about India's historical ties with Africa. It was left to the visitors to remind him of Nehru's legacy in befriending and embracing newly independent countries everywhere.

It was thus that Modi's party manufactured a TV ad promoting him as a diplomatic heavyweight during the parliamentary polls. A girl, overwhelmed by the alleged return of Indian students from Ukraine, confides to her father: “Usne jang rukwa di, Papa!” (Modi managed to stop the war, father — to pull out the stranded Indian students from Ukraine.)

DAILY MIRROR

Country can't afford elite's luxuries on taxpayers' money: PM

Premier Shehbaz vows to save "every penny of poor" as cabinet greenlights continuation of austerity drive

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday vowed to save every penny of the poor people till "last drop of my blood", saying that the country cannot afford that the bureaucracy and the elite enjoy luxuries at the expenses paid in taxes by poor.

"In view of the larger national interests, all ministries and institutions should take all possible decisions and initiatives that could save each penny of the nation," the premier said while chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet.

He said that steps were being taken, on a priority basis, to further improve governance and bring about institutional reforms in the country.

"We are introducing digitisation and smart management of institutions to modernise the country's system and harmonise it in accordance with the international requirements," PM Shehbaz said.

He also appreciated the decisions taken by the finance minister, minister for

national food security, minister for energy and other relevant ministers and officials for ensuring uninterrupted supply of urea fertilizer for the upcoming Rabi crop.

An amount of \$130 million was saved in the national exchequer by halting the import of urea and by ensuring uninterrupted gas supply to urea fertilizer units for the upcoming Rabi crop.

On the recommendations of the Ministry of Housing and Works, proposals were presented in the federal cabinet regarding the dissolution of Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD), transfer of its staff and ongoing projects to other ministries and institutions.

The meeting was informed that on the directions of the prime minister, necessary maintenance staff and inquiries were being handed over to the ministries concerned and provincial governments to continue uninterrupted work on the ongoing development and PSDP projects tasked to PWD.

In this regard, the federal cabinet approved the recommendations of the

Ministry of Housing and Works.

The cabinet was presented with the recommendations of the Rightsizing of the Federal Government Committee set up for Institutional Reforms, headed by the finance minister.

The cabinet was informed that in order to improve the performance of the federal government, proper use of manpower, removal of unnecessary impediments in the policy-making and implementation of decisions, and to further strengthen the most important departments and bodies, the first phase of work on committee's recommendations about six ministries had already been initiated. The meeting was further informed that in the light of the recommendations of the committee, a total of 82 government bodies related to these ministries were being merged and dissolved into 40 such institutions, in which digitisation, smart management, efficient governance, transparent and speedy implementation of projects and better provision of facilities to the common man would be ensured.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel in a meeting with Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani.

Senate Body discusses gas supply to captive power plants amidst rising costs

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee held with Senator Umer Farooq in chair on Tuesday held discussion on the cessation of gas supply to captive power plants, a move outlined under the policy of incumbent government.

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 (mcmd) 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 Musadik 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.

Govt facilitates to players to represent at national, Int level: Imran

APP

Quetta: Balochistan Secretary Information Imran Khan on Tuesday said that incumbent provincial government was taking all possible measures to provide opportunities to sports men including female to represent at national and International level. He expressed these views on the occasion of the inauguration of Girls' Throw Ball Coaching Camp organized by Balochistan Throw Ball Association. Secretary of Balochistan Throw Ball Naeem Akhtar, Technical Director Manzoor Ahmad Sarpara, Chief Coach Kamran Siddiqui, Coordinator Muhammad Ayub Khilji and other officials of the association, students of schools and colleges were also present on this occasion. The Secretary also hailed the participation of female students in modern sports apart from traditional sports. He expressed regret that the representation of Balochistan province in the field of sports was not equal, there was an urgent need to provide facilities and opportunities to students to fill this gap. He said that students should actively participate in curricular activities as well as extra-curricular activities. The

Secretary said that the interest of girls in sports was proof that there was no shortage of talent among our students. There is a need to provide them with proper guidance and solid training related to sports so that they can perform well in sports at the provincial, national, and international levels and can make the name of the province bright, he said.

It should be remembered that the Girls Throw Ball Coaching Camp was started on August 27 in which students from eight colleges and schools participated. This annual training camp will continue for two days. Earlier, Technical Director Balochistan Throw Ball Association Manzoor Ahmad Sarpara said in his address that Balochistan has been undefeated for 10 consecutive years in the Throw Ball game organized by Balochistan Throw Ball Association which was a matter of honor for the province. He said that the best performing students from this camp would be included in the provincial team and prepare for the throw ball competition at the national level. Later, Secretary Information Imran Khan officially started the Girls Throw Ball Coaching Camp by throwing the Ball.

Ji chief urges Sharif family to forego IPP charges to lower bills

INP

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has called on the Sharif family to relinquish capacity charges from their Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to reduce electricity bills.

Speaking at a press conference in Lahore on Tuesday, Rehman criticised the IPPs, stating, "We cannot sustain the burden of these IPPs. If the Sharif family and the Mansha Group let go of their annual capacity charges, the bills will decrease."

He added that high utility bills have devastated the country's economy and industry, "Tomorrow, we will have a nationwide shutter-down strike. We will not accept a tax of 30,000 rupees for some markets and 40,000 for others. The

government says the strike will harm business, but the situation is already dire. The government itself is destroying the economy," Rehman said.

He further stated, "Our protest efforts will compel the government to back down. If we do not receive relief, we will continue with strikes, consulting with traders to plan future actions. During tomorrow's strike, we will devise a strategy for the 'Give the People Their Rights' campaign and engage in peaceful protest." Rehman also voiced his support for the Baloch community, stating, "We have raised our voices for the Balochs. No one will be allowed to use the Baloch name to further India's agenda. Those who are selectively killing people in Balochistan are not humans but beasts and terrorists."

Pakistan aims to raise \$4bn from Middle Eastern banks, says SBP governor

ONLINE

KARACHI: Looking to plug its external financing gaps, Pakistan plans to raise up to \$4 billion from Middle Eastern commercial banks by the next fiscal year, the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad, told Reuters on Tuesday. The governor's optimism stems from the government's efforts to roll over \$12 billion in loans from China, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), according to sources.

In a wide-ranging interview with the wire, the SBP governor said Pakistan was also in the "advanced stages" of securing \$2 billion in additional external financing required for IMF approval of a \$7 billion bailout programme.

Additionally, as per sources, the government has requested an extra \$1.2 billion loan from Saudi Arabia to bridge a \$2 billion financing gap.

Pakistan and the IMF reached an agreement on the loan programme in July, subject to approval from the IMF's executive board and it obtaining "timely confirmation of necessary financing assurances from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners".

However, the country is missing from the IMF agenda until September 4, 2024, according to the lender's schedule of its Executive Board meetings released on August 26. Asked about monetary policy, Ahmad said recent interest rate cuts in Pakistan have had the desired effect, with inflation continuing to slow and the current account remaining under control, despite the cuts. Pakistan's annual consumer price index inflation was 11.1% in July, having fallen from highs of over 30% in 2023. "The Monetary Policy Committee will review all these developments," Ahmad said, adding that future rate decisions could not be pre-determined. The central bank cut rates for two straight meetings from a historic high of 22% to 19.5%, and will meet again to review monetary policy on September 12. "Now we have to focus on growth and other related areas because those are also equally important for job creation and other socioeconomic issues," said Ahmad.

Dar urges unity on Balochistan issue, warns against politicising terrorism

DPM emphasises need to control terrorism collectively, even if it requires spending up to Rs1 trillion on operations

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has called for unity in tackling terrorism in Balochistan, stressing that the issue should not be politicised.

Speaking in the Senate on Tuesday, Dar emphasised the need to control terrorism collectively, even if it requires spending up to one trillion rupees on operations.

"The prime minister will be visiting Balochistan in a day or two, while Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has already reached there," Dar said. "We maintain that dialogue should be held with those who recognise the state of Pakistan. However, we must condemn and take action against those who, under the guise of discontent, have taken to the mountains," he added.

Dar accused those involved in violence of being pawns of foreign agencies aiming to destabilise Pakistan. "The enemy wants to ensure that a nuclear-armed country does not achieve economic stability," he stated.

The deputy prime minister stressed that Balochistan is as dear to Pakistan as

any other province. "Every Pakistani is saddened by the recent terrorist incidents. We must move forward together instead of politicising this issue," he urged.

Dar proposed forming a joint committee of the Senate and National Assembly, including representatives from both sides, to address the issue. "The Senate represents the federation, and there are intelligent individuals here who can help solve problems affecting any region," he said.

Reflecting on past operations, Dar noted, "We managed to control the situation through operations like Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad, which cost us 100 billion rupees annually. If it takes even a trillion rupees to eliminate terrorism now, we must carry out these operations."

He cautioned against repeating past mistakes, where terrorists were released from jails under the guise of negotiations, allowing them to return to Pakistan. "We should not let those who oppose the country succeed. We have successfully conducted operations before, but negotiations led to significant errors," Dar remarked.



Commuters are facing difficulties in transportation due to stagnant rainwater causing of poor sewerage system after heavy downpour of monsoon season, at Adalat road in Quetta.

President stresses strengthening of Pakistan-China relations

INP

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 their mutual benefit of the two sides.

He was talking to the visiting Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, who called on him along with his delegation in Islamabad today.

The President said both China and Pakistan enjoy historic relations, spanning over seven decades, and affirmed Pakistan's resolve to stand with China in view of the changing global scenario.

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

The President remarked that the two countries should work closely to overcome shared challenges.

Highlighting the importance of Pak-China friendship, the Chinese Commander said friendship between the two countries is unbreakable. He added that both countries need to work together to fight terrorism.

Pakistan believes in power of digital inclusion: Chairman Senate

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has said that Pakistan believes in the power of digital inclusion, where technology serves as a catalyst for equitable and sustainable growth.

While addressing as chief guest of the 58th Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday, he commended the Asia Pacific Advanced Network, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and the Pakistan Education and Research Network for their efforts in advancing technological collaboration across the region.

Yousaf Raza Gilani observed that the partnership between HEC, PERN, and APAN will help create a vibrant community. Chairman Senate stated that over 50% of the population in our region still lacks access to the internet thus hindering true progress and development. He said that our challenges and opportunities are increasingly interconnected, requiring a unified and collective response, however, the way forward lies in pooling our resources, enhancing synergies and building robust partnerships.

He observed that in the realm of cyber security, Pakistan is aware of the critical importance of safeguarding the digital

infrastructure. "As cyber threats continue to escalate globally, with a 38% increase in cyber-attacks in 2023 alone, we are taking proactive measures to strengthen our cyber security", he remarked.

Highlighting the significance of green technology, the Chairman Senate also expressed Pakistan's dedication to promoting eco-friendly innovations that balance technological advancement with responsibility to protect the planet for future generations.

Referring to the active role of legislature, he apprized the participants that Pakistan's Parliament, particularly the Senate, remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing technological growth as a cornerstone of national progress. "Our focus is on shaping policies that promote innovation, build digital infrastructure, and support research initiatives across the country" he stated. The legislative efforts, he observed, are designed to create a robust framework that supports the development of cutting-edge technologies while ensuring that the rights and privacy of our citizens are protected.

Yousaf Raza Gilani said that our journey toward becoming a paperless chamber is well underway, with significant steps being taken to digitize all processes.



Central Association of Traders Balochistan President, Abdul Rahim Kakar and others are distributing pamphlets for shutter down strike, in Quetta