

Pakistan, China agree to strengthen anti-terror cooperation; say attempt to disrupt ties bound to fail

Islamabad (News Desk) Pakistan and China have agreed to strengthen their bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism activities, reiterating that any attempt to undermine or disrupt their ties was bound to fail, the Foreign Office (FO) said on Thursday. They also agreed to upgrade cooperation in various other sectors such as defence, agriculture and information technology. The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed as President Asif Ali Zardari met Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li

Qiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Peoples Congress Zhao Leji during his visit to China. A joint statement issued today by the FO on the discussions and agreements reached during the visit said: "The Pakistani side reiterated its strongest condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Pakistan involving Chinese personnel. It reaffirmed that ensuring the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan is the foremost responsibility of Pakistani government as China's all-weather strategic cooperative partner

and the host country. "The Chinese nationals in Pakistan have made important contributions to Pakistan's national construction and the improvement of people's livelihoods and serve as a strong force helping boost Pakistan's development, progress and prosperity. The Pakistani side expressed its sincere gratitude to the leadership and the people of China for their longstanding and invaluable support to Pakistan." It added that the two sides reiterated their commitment to combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with a "ze-

ro-tolerance attitude" and agreed to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism. "The Pakistani side will continue to make all efforts to investigate into the terrorist attacks involving Chinese personnel and bring the perpetrators to justice. It will also further increase input into security, and take targeted and enhanced measures to effectively ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan, and create a safe environment for cooperation between the two countries.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari walk past the honor guards during the welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, 05 February 2025

Several police officials seek long leave in protest over lawyers' action

HYDERABAD: (News Desk) Several policemen, including SHOs and incharges of various cells have expressed their inability to perform duties in protest over lawyers' barging into SSP's office on Tuesday, and sought 30-day leave for "recovery from this shock". The policemen gathered in SSP office on Wednesday to submit their leave applications amid reports that agitating lawyers have demanded transfer of SSP Dr Farrukh Ali for his refusal to remove Bhitai Nagar police station's SHO who had booked Advocate Ali Raza Bozdar on Monday for using tinted glasses and fancy number plates. Hyderabad Range DIG Tariq Razzaq Dharejo rushed to the SSP office to calm the police officials down and persuaded them to resume duties. They included; incharge CIA Karim Abbasi, incharge investigation cell at SSP office, Kashif Bajwa; SHO Pinyari Sajid Arain, incharge 15 City, Raja Sohail, Cantonment police station SHO Abdul Razak, Market police station SHO Munir Abbasi etc. They said in their applications that Tuesday's episode had demoralised police and tarnished their image. Lawyers call off protest after talks with DIG The Hyderabad police's reaction appeared to be a repeat of police protest when several SSPs had expressed their inability to perform duties after then IGP Mushtaq Mahar's house was raided by Rangers before Capt Safdar's arrest in October 2020 from a hotel in Karachi.

PTI ropes in ex-PM Abbasi to steer opposition alliance



ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) After talks between the government and the opposition collapsed last week, the PTI made another push to establish a joint front against the federal government and roped in former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to become part of its anti-government movement. The meeting with the former PML-N lawmaker from Murree came after PTI founder Imran Khan wrote a letter to Army Chief Gen Asim Munir proposing 'remedial measures' to bridge the purported trust deficit between the public and the military. The PTI has also made efforts to convince Maulana Fazlur Rehman of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam and former PPP senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar to become part of its anti-government alliance. It may be noted that in April last year the PTI already formed a multi-party opposition alliance named Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan, comprising Sunni Ittehad Council, Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Balochistan National Party-Mengal, Jamaat-i-Islami, and Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen. The PTI officials said the grand alliance would be steered by Mr Abbasi. This was decided after major opposition parties gathered at the residence of former speaker Asad Qaiser in Banigala.

3 cops martyred, 6 injured in Karak checkpoint attack

Karachi (News Desk) Three cops were martyred while another six were injured in an attack on a police checkpoint in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district late last night, officials said on Thursday. Pakistan has recently witnessed an uptick in terrorist activities, especially in KP and Balochistan. Attacks increased after the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) broke a fragile ceasefire agreement with the government in 2022, vowing to target security officials and the police force.

According to a statement from the KP Police Central Office, "Unknown terrorists opened fire from all sides at a checkpoint in Karak's Bahadur Khel area, targeting police personnel using light and heavy weapons in an attempt to capture the checkpoint." Policemen present at the checkpoint fired back in an encounter which lasted for two hours, following which the terrorists fled, the statement said. Police personnel injured in the firing were shifted to Karak District Headquarter Hospital, while three of the injured were

sent to Peshawar for further treatment, according to District Police Officer Shehbaz Elahi. The funeral prayers of the three martyred cops — identified as Taimur Hayat, Naqeeb and Adnan — were offered at the Karak Police Lines this morning. KP Inspector General of Police (IG) Zulfiqar Hameed, Kohat Regional Police Officer Abbas Majeed, Kohat Commissioner Mautasim Balallah, Karak Deputy Commissioner Shakeel Jan, and other civil officers were among the attendees. IG Hameed met the be-

reaved family members and assured them that the blood of the martyred would not go in vain. The bodies of the martyred police personnel have been sent to their respective native areas. "Our jawaan fought bravely and thwarted the enemy's attack," IG Hameed said while speaking to the media in Karak this morning. "The cowardly terrorists wanted to lay siege to this checkpoint, overpower it and take over our personnel. However, the terrorists were unsuccessful in their attempts and fled," he said.

Health ministry wants cost of land for Islamabad's Jinnah Medical Complex

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Prime Minister Office has sought Capital Development Authority's (CDA) point of view over a summary of health ministry seeking waiver of land cost for proposed Jinnah Medical Complex. CDA in November asked the health ministry to arrange Rs19.7 billion funds to lease 600 kanal of land for the Jinnah Medical Complex to be built in Sector H-16. A few days ago, the civic agency in a letter to the health ministry offered a 33-year lease on 600 kanal for the medical complex. The lease is extendable for two terms of 33 years and the ministry has been asked to pay Rs19.7 billion for it. Sources in CDA said that health ministry after receiving the letter of CDA had requested the civic agency to waive off the payment against land. However, CDA informed the health ministry that as per prevailing policy and regulations, exemption/waiver corresponding to land cost to any organization is not covered as all the land is acquired by CDA and compensation is paid to those whose land had been acquired by CDA and they are entitled to get payment/plots from the CDA.

Police suspect honour killing in runaway girl case in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: (News Desk) A young girl who reportedly ran away from her home died shortly after being brought back home by her parents and was laid to rest in the Jatli area, raising suspicions in the police that she might have been killed over 'honour'. A detective foot constable posted at the Jatli police station reported on Tuesday that he was on duty near Syed Adda when he received information that a 17-year-old girl, who was a first-year student (college student) and resident of Syed Kasran, had been missing from her home. In a statement, he further said that after her parents knew that she had been missing, the girl's father and uncle launched a search and finally she was found at the Syed Adda. She was brought home by her parents who suspected that she had befriended someone and attempted to run away from home. The DFC further said that the news of the girl's death spread in the area as the deceased was laid to rest in a local graveyard at about 2pm on Tuesday. Police will file a request in the court of law to get permission for the exhumation of the body to ascertain the real circumstances and the cause of her death. A senior police officer confirmed that the incident had come to their knowledge and police were investigating it.

Four held in 'swift action' in crime against women in Lahore

LAHORE: (News Desk) The Lahore operations police on Wednesday arrested a stalker for continuously harassing a university student for seven months. The arrested man is a motor vehicle examiner of the transport department. The complainant even blocked his 70 mobile sims during the last seven months. In yet another case the same day, the police arrested three suspects who allegedly gang-raped two teenage girls. Reports suggested two policemen had 'raided the house' of a widow and sexually assaulted her daughter and niece. A motor vehicle examiner detained for harassing varsity student; three arrested for gang-rape of teenage girls, two policemen at large. An official said the first incident took place in Misri Shah where the university student filed a complaint against the transport department official who had been harassing and blackmailing her for long. As the matter reached DIG Operations Faisal Kamran, he ordered the formation of a special team which arrested the accused official, ensuring immediate legal proceedings under the relevant sections of the law. According to police report, the university student complained the inspector had been harassing her for the past several months. She blocked approximately 70 sims but could not deter him. She said the suspect was well-connected and had no fear of police and law.



PM Shehbaz Sharif, son Hamza Shehbaz get acquitted in Ramzan Sugar Mills case

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Islamabad (News Desk) An anti-corruption court on Thursday acquitted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz in the Ramzan Sugar Mill case after the defence and prosecution concluded their arguments. In 2018, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had filed a refer-

ence against PM Shehbaz — who was the chief minister at the time — and his son Hamza, alleging that they had caused a loss of Rs213 million to the national exchequer by committing the offence of misuse of authority. It had said Shehbaz had issued a directive for the construction of a drain in the Chinot district

primarily for the use of Ramzan Sugar Mills, owned by his sons Hamza and Suleman. On Oct 17 2024, an accountability court had transferred the Ramzan Sugar Mills reference to the anti-corruption court due to lack of jurisdiction following amendments introduced in the National Accountability Ordinance

1999. The NAB, after the amendment, cannot prosecute an alleged offence involving money less than Rs500 million and the offence amount in the mills' reference was below the minimum value. The accountability court was informed that the NAB in its reference made a case of alleged corruption of Rs213 million.

US aid suspension to hit 60 health facilities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Effects of the suspension of all US foreign aid programmes have started to appear in Pakistan as over 60 health facilities will be closed down, leaving 1.7 million people, including 1.2m Afghan refugees, cut off from life-saving reproductive health services. These health facilities in Pakistan were being administered by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The UNFPA's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Pio Smith, expressed his deep con-

cern saying that millions of women and girls now face life-threatening risks due to the lack of access to UNFPA's crucial services across Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. In response to the US administration's decision to pause nearly all US foreign aid programmes pending a 90-day review, UNFPA has suspended services funded by US grants that provide a lifeline for women and girls in crises, including in South Asia, Pio Smith said. "This is not about statistics. This is about real

lives. These are literally the world's most vulnerable people," Millions of women and girls face life-threatening risks across Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Mr Smith said in a statement issued on Wednesday. The regional director estimated that UNFPA requires over \$308 million in 2025 to sustain essential services in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. It has been announced in Washington that as of Feb 7, all USAID direct

hire personnel will be placed on administrative leave globally, with the exception of designated personnel responsible for mission-critical functions, core leadership and specially designated programmes. Essential personnel expected to continue working will be informed by the agency's leadership by Feb 6. 'Bottom-up' review US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Wednesday the country would keep funding international aid projects after a "bot-



tom-up" review, as most staff at the country's massive humanitarian agency are set to be placed on leave. Rubio, on a visit to Guatemala, insisted that President Donald Trump's administration only reluc-

tantly issued sweeping orders that include bringing back almost all overseas staff of the USAID. "We are now going to have to work from the bottom up, instead of the top-down, to identify according to AFP.