

Pakistan, China agree to enhance intelligence sharing in meeting of security czars

Islamabad (News Desk) Pakistan and China agreed to further improve mutual intelligence sharing in a meeting between their interior ministers on Wednesday. The development came in a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his Chinese counterpart Qi Yanjun during the former's visit to Beijing. Naqvi is part of a delegation led by President Asif Ali Zardari that landed in China a day ago and also includes Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Senator Saleem Mandviwala, and Dr Asim Hussain. The interaction between

Naqvi and his Chinese counterpart lasted two hours and came in the backdrop of attacks on Chinese personnel working in Pakistan that have angered China, which has pushed the federal government to begin formal negotiations for a joint security management system. Pakistan's ongoing counter-terrorism efforts remain a key topic of discussion between the two countries due to the rising frequency of attacks targeting Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. Of the major attacks that have targeted Chinese citizens in Pakistan since 2021, the biggest one was

when at least 12 persons, including nine Chinese engineers and two Frontier Corps personnel, were killed when a bus was attacked near the Dasu hydropower plant in KP's Upper Kohistan district in July 2021. Aside from vowing to enhance intelligence sharing between the two nations, the interior ministers also discussed cooperation to further secure the border between the two countries, in addition to the use of modern technology for police and paramilitary forces. The two officials also led a detailed discussion on acquiring modern equip-

ment and technology for the police from China. Cooperation with the National Police Academy was also discussed by the two officials who further decided to increase cooperation between the Beijing Police and Islamabad Police. They also expressed satisfaction over a meeting of the Joint Working Group in January in which the two sides had reaffirmed their commitment to high-quality development of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with an emphasis on industrialisation, special economic zones, clean energy.

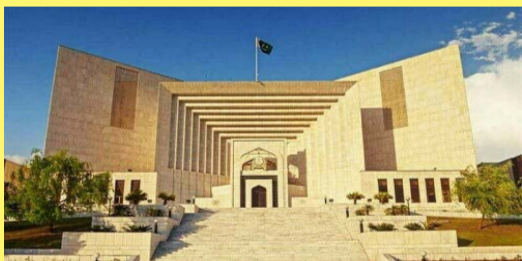


Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meets with his Chinese counterpart Qi Yanjun in Beijing, China on Wednesday

UNHCR, IOM concerned about plan to move Afghan refugees

Islamabad (News Desk) The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on Wednesday expressed concern over the government's "devised plan" to move registered Afghan refugees out of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, seeking clarity from the government over the "modality and timeframe" of relocation. The government has devised a plan to move registered Afghan refugees out of Islamabad and Rawalpindi and gradually repatriate them back to their country, sources with knowledge of the plan told Dawn. Authorities have also been directed to implement the plan without making any public announcement in this regard. Under phase I of the relocation plan, Afghan nationals having the Afghan Citizens Card (ACC) will be "immediately" moved out of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. They will then be sent back to Afghanistan alongside illegal and undocumented refugees. According to a joint statement issued in Islamabad today, both organisations recognised that the state chose to limit freedom of movement for foreigners, including refugees, however, they urged the government to "implement any relocation measures with due consideration for human rights standards."

Challenges to Peca land in Supreme Court, SHC



ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: (News Desk) Days after their promulgation, the amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) faced separate challenges in the Supreme Court and the Sindh High Court for posing a threat to press freedom and fundamental rights. The petitioner filed in the Supreme Court by Muhammad Qayum, a resident of Ghizer in Gilgit-Baltistan, sought a full court review of the recent changes, saying that Peca tweaks were against the Constitution, beyond the power of the legislature and extremely repugnant to the human rights, fundamental rights and freedom of expression and speech. The petitioner urged the court to strike down the law after a judicial review by the full court. He argued that in the national interest to maintain peace and stability both the amendment as well as the existing law should be reviewed. The petition alleged that the law was introduced to target opponents and therefore these could not be sustained and must be restricted. The petition also stated that until the final adjudication of the case, the law may be suspended by the court.

PM Shehbaz, President Zardari urge global action as country observes Kashmir Solidarity Day

Islamabad (News Desk) President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have urged the international community to put pressure on India to allow the Kashmiri people to freely determine their own future for lasting peace in the region, state-run Radio Pakistan reported. In his message on Kashmir Solidarity Day being observed today (Wednesday), PM Shehbaz highlighted that a lasting peace could not be achieved by suppressing the genuine aspirations of the local people. The recent developments

in the Middle East amply showed that long-standing disputes should not be allowed to fester, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted the premier as saying in a statement. He said the government and the people of Pakistan annually observed the Kashmir Solidarity Day to renew their steadfast support for the Kashmiri people's just and legitimate struggle for the realisation of their right to self-determination. "The right to self-determination is a fundamental principle of international law. Every year, the UN General Assembly adopts

a resolution that stresses the legal right of people to decide their own destiny," the premier said, according to a statement from his office. "Regrettably, despite 78 years having passed, the Kashmiri people have yet to exercise this inalienable right," he lamented. "Today, the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) remains one of the most militarised zones in the world. Kashmiris are living in an environment of fear and intimidation," PM Shehbaz highlighted. Reiterating that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute would remain a key pillar

of Pakistan's foreign policy, the premier reaffirmed the country's "unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people till the realisation of their right to self-determination". President Asif Ali Zardari said the day reminded the global community of its responsibility towards the oppressed Kashmiri people, according to Radio Pakistan. The president stated that the United Nations should honour the promises made to the Kashmiris 78 years ago and support their struggle for their right to self-determination.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif receives a guard of honour upon his arrival at the AJK Legislative Assembly on Feb 5, 2025

Establishment denies receiving Imran's letter

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) As the PTI doubled down on purported 'remedial measures' proposed by party founder Imran Khan in a letter to the army chief, the security sources on Tuesday claimed that the chief of army staff had not received any sort of letter from the incarcerated former prime minister. As per the letter, which has not been shared with the media, there was a

growing rift between the establishment and the masses and the army needed to reevaluate its policy to win over the public while Imran Khan had shared the reasons and suggestions to remedy this situation. PTI interim chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan had said that Imran Khan, in his letter, had reminded the army chief that as a former prime minister and the founder of the

country's 'biggest political party', he wanted to point out "certain things because of which the distance between the people and the establishment is widening". However, security sources said the letter written by Imran Khan had not been received by the military and dismissed reports in the media about the existence of such a letter. They claimed that the military establishment was not in-

terested in receiving such a letter. Sources say even if the letter arrived, it will not be entertained. They claimed that the PTI leadership had staged another drama and suggested that if the PTI was interested in holding talks, the party should contact politicians instead of the military establishment. They made it clear that if a letter is received it will not be entertained.

Prime suspect in crypto trader kidnap case held, remanded

KARACHI: (News Desk) The prime suspect in the crypto trader kidnapping case was arrested and remanded in police custody by an antiterrorism court on Tuesday. Ali Raza, said to be a head constable in the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), was produced before the ATC for remand. The investigating officer informed the court that the suspect's police custody was required to conduct an identification parade and recover the remaining digital currency worth \$120,000. The court remanded him in police custody for seven days. Statement of kidnap victim recorded. A judicial magistrate recorded the statement of Arsalan Malik, the kidnap victim and complainant of the case, under Section 164 of the criminal procedure code in the presence of all suspects. Complainant's counsel Barrister Uzair Ghouri told Dawn that the police had failed to record the "exact verbatim" statement of his client, which is why he sought to have his statement recorded before the magistrate.

IHC judges want changes to seniority list undone

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The Islamabad High Court judges approached Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi and IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq to reclaim their seniority in light of changes to the ranking following the transfer of new judges, particularly Justice Sarfraz Dogar from the Lahore High Court who became the senior puisne judge replacing Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani. Besides losing his coveted position, Justice Kayani lost his representation in the Departmental Promotion Committee and the Administration Committee on Monday. In another order on Tuesday, the judge was stripped of the Inspection Judge of the Special Courts position. A notification issued by the high court administration following the CJ's approval stated that the charge had been assigned to Justice Dogar. Justice Dogar was appointed as LHC judge in June 2015, while the date of the appointment of Justice Kayani is Dec 23, 2015. The administration also revised its seniority list and the changes were implemented after receiving approval from Chief Justice Farooq, with separate notifications issued by the registrar's office. The updated seniority list is as follows: Justice Dogar, Justice Kayani, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz, Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro, Justice Mohammad Azam Khan.

60 nations to take part in Aman naval exercise

KARACHI: (News Desk) The multinational naval exercise Aman, will see 60 countries taking part this year along with their ships, aircraft, special operations forces, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) marine teams, and observers. The media brief for the ninth Multinational Maritime Exercise Aman-25 was held at the Pakistan Navy's Fleet Headquarters Auditorium here on Tuesday. The Commander of Pakistan Fleet, Rear Admiral Abdul Munib provided a rundown on details of the exercise and the maiden Aman Dialogue, which is scheduled for February 7 to 11. The commander Pakistan Fleet highlighted that with the evolving global landscape shift from geopolitics to geo-economics, the security of global sea-borne trade and energy routes has gained unprecedented importance. The Indian Ocean Region faces a range of challenges, from traditional security threats to non-traditional risks. These issues have broadened the scope of maritime security, compelling nations to re-evaluate their strategies and policies. "Here no single country can address the complex challenges at sea alone. Therefore, we are 'together for peace'." The primary objective of this exercise is to bring the maritime nations together to adopt safe and sustainable procedures, share experiences and collectively address maritime threats," he said. The Aman Exercise is divided into two phases: harbour and sea. The harbour phase, to go on from February 7 to 9, will include seminars, operational discussions, professional demonstrations, international gatherings and sports fixtures.

NAB restrained from arresting Qaim Ali Shah, Sharjeel in Bahria Town Karachi land grab case

KARACHI: (News Desk) The Sindh High Court on Tuesday restrained the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) from arresting two Pakistan Peoples Party leaders, former chief minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah and senior Sindh minister Sharjeel Memon, in the Bahria Town Karachi land grab reference. Mr Shah and Mr Memon filed petitions before the SHC and challenged the jurisdiction and summons issued by an accountability court after NAB filed

the graft reference. A two-judge constitutional bench comprising Justice Mohammad Karim Khan Agha and Justice Adnan-Ul-Karim Memon also suspended the summons issued by the accountability court and asked the petitioners to furnish solvent surety of Rs100,000 each. Petitioners' counsel Barrister Zamir Ghumro and Raj Ali Wahid Kunwar argued that no reference can be made against their clients and NAB should not

have added their names in the reference following certain amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 1999. After a preliminary hearing, the bench observed that a number of references had been filed in the past against former CM Shah (respondent No 5) and Mr Memon (respondents No 6) "as such this new reference against them might be based on malafides which we find gives them grounds to

approach directly to this court in respect of this issue to determine whether the accountability court has jurisdiction to take up the matter in respect of the petitioners". "For the time being, summons against respondent No5 & 6 are suspended and they shall not be arrested until the next date of hearing subject to them each providing solvent surety in the amount of Rs100,000 to the satisfaction of the nazir of this court.



"In the meantime, the accountability court shall proceed against all other persons in the reference in accordance with law until such time as the ju-

risdictional issued is determined by this bench," it added. The bench issued notices to NAB and other respondents as well as to the additional attorney.