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Naqvi visits National Police Academy, inspects academy's renovation facilities



CDWP approves five Uraan Pakistan health projects

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PM welcomes IDCPC vice minister, lauds Chinese generous support to Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday welcomed Vice Minister, International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Sun Haiyan during a call on paid by her at the Prime Minister House. The Prime Minister was assisted by SAPM Tariq Fatemi, PM's Special Representative on China Amb. Zafar Uddin Mahmood, and Foreign Secretary Ambassador Anna Baloch, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the Chinese dignitary and her delegation to Pakistan. He said it was particularly auspicious that the visit was taking place amid bilateral celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. He noted that the

year had commenced with the successful visit of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan to Beijing, followed by a visit by the Interior Minister to Shanghai. The Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan was also expected to visit China in the coming days. The prime minister conveyed his warm greetings to President Xi Jinping and the Chinese leadership. He reaffirmed Pakistan's iron-clad All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China. He said that this would remain unshakable at all times. The prime minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the One China Policy. PM Sharif lauded China's generous support to Pakistan, especially through CPEC and stressed upon the need to ensure timely implementation of the next phase of CPEC. He also reiterated his most cordial invitation to President Xi Jinping.



ISLAMABAD: Vice Minister of IDCPC Ms. Sun Haiyan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan calls for peaceful resolution of Iran situation, hopes for regional stability

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has said it is closely monitoring the situation in Iran and wants a peaceful resolution to the issue, reaffirming its commitment to playing a role for peace and stability in the region.

Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi, while speaking at the weekly briefing, said Pakistan supports a peaceful solution to the Iran issue and will continue to play its role for peace.

"Pakistan stands by peace and stability in Iran and hopes the country will soon overcome its current crisis," he continued. He said Pakistan attached great importance to Iran, both as a neighbouring country and as an important player of the international community and an important member of the global fraternity.

"Pakistan hopes that peace and stability will prevail, and we reaffirm our support for all efforts aimed at a peaceful resolution of the situation," he added. The spokesperson said that the protests were "triggered by economic hardships faced by the Iranian people."

Trump's 'military intervention' in Iran 'appears likely': officials warn

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: US military intervention in Iran now appears likely and could take place within the next 24 hours, officials have warned, amid sharply escalating tensions in the Middle East.

American, European and Israeli sources said preparations for possible action were under way as Washington began evacuating personnel from its major air base in Qatar.

Tehran has warned that the military airfields would be targeted if Donald Trump orders a strike.

With Iran's leadership trying to quash the worst domestic unrest since the Islamic Republic

has ever faced, Tehran is seeking to deter the



with one suggesting it could come within the

US president's repeated threats to intervene on behalf of anti-government protesters.

An American official said on Wednesday that the evacuation of Al Udeid Air Base was a precautionary move following warnings from a senior Iranian official.

Meanwhile, two European officials said military intervention now appeared likely,

Three diplomats said some personnel had been told to leave, though there were no immediate signs of large numbers of troops being evacuated.

Last year, soldiers were taken by bus to a soccer stadium and shopping mall in the hours before an Iranian missile strike. It comes as Benjamin Netanyahu's jet departed Israel earlier today, while Trump considered his next move. The US leader has repeatedly threatened to intervene in support of protesters in Iran, where thousands of people have been reported killed in a crackdown on the protests against clerical rule. Iran and its Western foes have both described.

13 India-sponsored terrorists killed in KP raids: ISPR

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces carried out two separate intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing 13 terrorists linked to the Indian proxy network "Fitna al-Khawarij", the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday. The raids were conducted in the Bannu and Kurram districts after actionable intelligence indicated the presence of armed militants in the two areas. According to the military's media wing.

Eight arrested in Lahore for defaming judges on social media

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: In a major development in the case involving the character assassination of superior court judges on social media, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has arrested eight suspects from Lahore. According to NCCIA officials, the arrested individuals were involved in running a defamatory campaign against judges of the superior judiciary through social media platforms. The suspects allegedly shared and circulated content aimed at mocking,

Exercise Inspired Gambit-2026: Pakistan and US armies hold counter-terrorism drills



PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Exercise Inspired Gambit-2026, a joint military initiative between the Pakistan Army and the United States Army that began last Thursday, will conclude tomorrow. The two-week-long exercise, focused on counter-terror-

ism (CT), marks the 13th iteration of this bilateral training series that has been conducted since 1995. Today, a Commander of the Distinguished Visitors' Day ceremony was held at the National Counter Terrorism Centre in Pabbi. Natalie Baker, Chargé d'Affaires of the United

States to Pakistan, accompanied by senior US military officials, attended the event along with the Commander of the Rawalpindi Corps. During the ceremony, the visiting dignitaries were briefed on the scope, objectives, and conduct of the exercise. Both armies demonstrated

a high level of operational professionalism and competence, which was widely appreciated by the attendees. The exercise provides a platform for the exchange of counter-terrorism strategies and operational experiences between the two militaries. Participants engaged in realistic drills aimed at refining CT procedures while maintaining stringent standards of safety and coordination. Inspired Gambit-2026 seeks to strengthen bilateral military cooperation by enhancing interoperability, refining tactical drills, and fostering mutual understanding.

The training also reinforces the commitment of both nations to counter-terrorism preparedness and operational readiness.

IHC seeks report from Interior Ministry over failure to lift Fawad Chaudhry's travel ban

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought a report from the Ministry of Interior over its failure to remove former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry's name from the travel ban list, despite clear court orders.

Justice Inam Amin Minhas heard the contempt of court petition filed by Fawad Chaudhry, while his counsel, Faisal Farid Chaudhry Advocate, appeared before the court.

During the hearing, the petitioner's lawyer argued that the court had already directed the authorities to remove Fawad Chaudhry's name from the travel restriction list. However, despite the passage of time and explicit judicial orders, his name still remains on the list, which constitutes a violation of the court's directives.

The counsel requested the court to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the relevant officials for non-compliance.





Rs. 300 Million extortion racket exposed as senate grills FIA over NCCIA officers protecting illegal call centers

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: A major corruption scandal has erupted around the newly formed National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency after official records and Senate proceedings revealed that its own officers are accused of running a large scale extortion racket to protect illegal call centers, many operated by foreign nationals. The disclosures, examined by the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication, have raised alarm over institutional failure, internal corruption, and the inability of law enforcement agencies to prevent cybercrime despite visible warning signs. The matter came before the committee chaired by Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, where it was confirmed that the Federal Investigation Agency itself has registered a corruption case against NCCIA offi-

cers through its Anti-Corruption Circle. According to the official case record, the FIR names senior and mid-level NCCIA officials along with private facilitators and foreign nationals, accusing them of enabling illegal call centers in exchange for monthly bribes. Investigators told the committee that the extortion network allegedly collected close to Rs. 300 million, with one group alone amassing approximately Rs. 250 million and another around Rs. 50 million. The scheme involved charging illegal call centers a fixed Rs. 1 million per month for protection, while new centers were allegedly allowed to open after paying a so called "cooperation fee" of Rs. 800,000. In some cases, arrested foreign nationals were allegedly released after paying lump sums, including a reported deal worth Rs. 20 million for the release of a

foreign national and his associates. The accused include senior NCCIA officials posted in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, officers from Grade 16 to Grade 19, and private intermediaries used to collect cash. The committee was informed that one sub-inspector is accused of sending videos showing the torture of a detained foreign national to his family in order to extract money. Private security company owners were allegedly used as frontmen to move and collect bribe payments, while foreign nationals acted as on-ground managers of the scam operations. During the briefing, FIA officials confirmed that a case has been registered against 13 individuals, some of whom have obtained protective bail, while others are being pursued. Despite the scale of the alleged corruption, senators were told that only Rs. 1.5 million has

been recovered so far, drawing criticism from committee members who questioned how such a vast operation could result in such minimal financial recovery. The chairperson openly challenged the agencies, questioning how illegal call centers employing thousands of people in prime areas of Islamabad could operate openly without detection. She pointed out that even ordinary citizens could see large, lavish buildings functioning as call centers, yet enforcement agencies failed to act until the scandal surfaced. Senators described this as a clear sign of systemic negligence or collusion. Senators criticized the reactive nature of law enforcement, stating that illegal call centers rely on compact, mobile technology that can be tracked if agencies use modern preventive tools. He warned that powerful individuals often stand behind such

operations and questioned why Pakistan lags behind other countries in dismantling cybercrime infrastructure before damage is done. Senators referred to earlier high profile murder and scam cases that had already exposed the deep links between illegal call centers and protected criminal networks. Officials from the Ministry of Interior defend the situation by stating that NCCIA is a new organization still facing operational challenges. They acknowledged the presence of "black sheep" within the agency and asked for time to complete investigations, arguing that cybercrime has expanded beyond call centers into social media fraud and digital account hacking. However, this explanation failed to satisfy the committee, which noted that the seriousness of the allegations far exceeds routine teething issues. Clarifying

concerns, officials stressed that not all call centers are illegal. Registered call centers operating under the Pakistan Software Export Board are lawful, while the action targets unregistered centers operating covertly and allegedly involved in scams, extortion, and financial fraud. Senators nevertheless warned that the distinction offers little comfort when enforcement agencies themselves are accused of shielding criminal activity. While expressing dissatisfaction over the slow pace of recoveries and the magnitude of corruption, the committee allowed more time for investigations to proceed. Members made it clear that the scandal has damaged public trust in cybercrime enforcement and that accountability must extend beyond junior officers to include those who enabled the system to function.

HEC intensifies efforts to promote AI, enhance faculty skills at universities

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Research and Innovation Division and Information Technology (IT) Division of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) have taken important steps to promote Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its effective use in the

education system, further accelerating the pace of adoption of modern technology. In this regard, they have launched the AI-Ready Faculty Program in collaboration with the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom, Meta and Atomcamp. The

main objective of this program is to enhance the skills of teaching staff in universities across the country and align the quality of teaching with modern requirements. Under this initiative, Atomcamp provided advanced training on AI to faculty members across

Pakistan, while HEC provided the necessary support and partnership for this program.

As a result of this successful collaboration, more than 300 faculty members have been provided with advanced training in AI so far, which not only enhanced the professional

skills of teachers but also strengthened the foundation for the effective use of modern technology in higher education institutions. HEC thanked the Ministry of IT, Meta and Atom Camp and said that such collaborative initiatives will play a key role in the promotion of

higher education, research and innovation in Pakistan. HEC said that in the future, more such programs will be introduced in the field of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies so that Pakistani universities can develop according to world standards.

Opinion & Editorial

The Don-roe doctrine

F.S. AIJAZUDDIN

POLITICAL doctrines, like public buildings, are often named after persons. The US boasts the Lincoln Memorial, the J. Edgar Hoover Building, even Washington, D.C. America's very name owes its origins to the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci. Had the cartographer Martin Waldseemüller not appropriated the name America for his map of the New World in 1507, America might have been named Colombia, after Christopher Columbus.

Political doctrines too have a patrimony: in the East, Marxism, Leninism, Stalinism and Brezhnevism. The latter declared the then USSR's obligation under the Warsaw Pact to intervene militarily if any Eastern Bloc socialist country was threatened. China has seen Taoism, Maoism and more recently Xi-ism. Xi-ism has morphed from 'Xi Jinping Thought', formally incorporated in the constitution of the Chinese Communist Party in 2018. Xi Jinping Thought has been summarised to include Ten Affirmations, Fourteen Commitments, Thirteen Areas of Achievements, and Six Musts. Collectively, they encapsulate Xi Jinping's worldview and the Sincinisation of Marxism.

Xi Jinping has chosen to follow the footsteps of his precursors. In the west, President Donald Trump has hurdled over the doctrines left by his predecessors — in particular, Dwight

Eisenhower's of 1957, which assured economic aid and military assistance to any Middle Eastern countries threatened by 'international communism'. And Richard Nixon's in 1959, which affirmed that the US would honour "treaty commitments" but expected its allies to be responsible for their own defence. It would provide arms and aid but not troops.

Trump has backtracked centuries to Theodore Roosevelt's doctrine of 1904 and James Monroe's of 1823. Roosevelt's doctrine identified Latin America as its backyard, where the US could expand its commercial interests and block European hegemony in the region. It sought to make the US the dominant power there. Monroe warned European powers like Spain against colonising the Americas further.

A Great Dane is no match for a hungry Rottweiler. The impact of the Monroe Doctrine on US foreign policy has been discussed in Jay Sexton's 'The Monroe Doctrine: Empire and Nation in Nineteenth-Century America'. He traces the growth of these United States (the original 13 states) to the United States. He explores their ambivalent relationship with an expansive 19th-century Great Britain, and describes the Monroe Doctrine as "an American shorthand for a hemisphere (and ultimately a world), cleared of the British

Empire".

Two centuries later, the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 has been refurbished and reframed as the 'Don-roe doctrine'. Today, Trump's America has nothing to fear from King Charles III's Britain. Trump's slogan 'Make America Great Again' is more than a doctrinal goal. It is a combustible propellant that admixes "right-wing populism, right-wing anti-globalism, national conservatism and neo-nationalism".

His policy is a forceful application of 'dollar diplomacy', used many times before in US history — instances are when the US bought Louisiana from France in 1803, Florida from Spain in 1819, Alaska from Russia in 1867, and the US Virgin Islands from Denmark in 1917. The Danes having sold the Virgin Islands should prepare themselves for the 'forced sale' of Greenland. They may not have a choice. The contiguous US mainland is almost four times bigger than Greenland which is 50 times larger than Denmark. A Great Dane is no match for a hungry Rottweiler.

Trump's demands evoke fears expressed over a century ago by small nations when threatened by larger ones. Hispanics in particular became apprehensive. As one Argentine put it, by substituting the United States for Europe as "a source of civilisation", they would be getting "European civilisation second hand".

Courtesy Dawn

Crystal-gazing American unilateralism

INAM UL HAQUE

DURING the very first week of this year, on January 3, the US conducted Operation 'Absolute Resolve' to kidnap President Maduro of Venezuela, along with his wife from the capital Caracas, at night when both were asleep in a discreet safehouse. The Operation was long in the offing, ostensibly for Venezuelan oil and other riches, although Maduro was no saint. Almost a year in the planning, the CIA bought the loyalties of Maduro's inner circle in a sordid tale of betrayal. Sea flotilla, stealth helicopters, Delta Force, covert agents and law enforcement personnel raided one of Maduro's residences at Fuerte Tiuna. Over 150 USAF planes suppressed Venezuelan air defences. Carrier group Iowa Jima, and Marines were placed, just in case. The operation was successfully conducted within 150 minutes with clinical military precision and brilliance. This operation occurred exactly 35 years after American forces had invaded Panama to haul Manuel Noriega on January 3, 1990, during Operation 'Just Cause'. Maduro, like Noriega, was charged with drug smuggling and other crimes in the US. The recently released National Security Strategy by the Trump Administration reiterates US dominance in the Western Hemisphere, especially in the Americas, particularly in Latin America, America's presumed backyard, where Washington has historically intervened. During, and after the Cold War (1947-1991), the US conducted regime change operations to remove left-wing Soviet/Russian-backed leaders in numerous coup d'états, in economic and military interventions and domination operations, in most of the 35 countries in North/Central America (Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Guatemala, etc); South America (Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, etc); and the Caribbean (Grenada, Cuba, Haiti, Dominic Republic, etc).

Courtesy Tribune



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Visa checks

IT is a pragmatic response to the various immigration-related issues that had been accumulating. On Tuesday, Pakistan and the UAE agreed to pursue a formal agreement on pre-immigration clearance for Pakistanis travelling to the Gulf state, with a pilot to be launched at the Karachi airport. If this arrangement materialises, those travelling to the UAE will complete immigration formalities in Pakistan before their departure, which will allow them to avoid processing upon arrival in the UAE and, possibly, exit airports quickly. On the other hand, the UAE authorities will benefit from enhanced border security as Pakistani officials will, in effect, be helping them curb visa misuse. It is positive that Pakistan is moving towards this arrangement as it has a large diaspora population in the UAE, which sends vital remittances. The Gulf nation is a major destination for our labour exports, and the initiative comes amid long-standing visa restrictions and processing delays for citizens wishing to travel to the UAE. As trust is gradually restored between the authorities of both nations, it is hoped that the unofficial restrictions placed on issuance of visas over the past few years will ease, allowing for easier travel. Pakistani authorities should be aware of what the UAE expects.

Bilawal Bhutto highlights Sindh's progress in major sectors, calls for devolution of sales tax collection



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Thursday outlined the Sindh government's performance since 2008, highlighting progress in healthcare, education, poverty alleviation, infrastructure, industry, agriculture and revenue generation, while proposing devolution of sales tax collection to the provinces to address the country's fiscal challenges. Giving a detailed presentation on provincial governance here at Presidency, Bilawal Bhutto said Sindh was often portrayed as a "glass half empty" province, but maintained that the PPP-led government had steadily strengthened institutions and expanded service delivery. He noted that

since assuming office in 2008, the party had received a larger mandate in every subsequent provincial election. The event was attended by Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, members of the Sindh cabinet, parliamentarians, representatives of the business community, diplomats, and media persons.

Focusing on healthcare, The PPP chairman said Sindh had increased health sector allocations from 2.9 per cent of the provincial budget in 2008 to nearly 10pc at present. He highlighted the expansion of major public hospitals, including the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), where bed capacity had doubled from 1,100 to 2,200 by 2025, with a target of 3,100 beds by 2028.

He said the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), also known as the Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (SICVD), now operated 11 specialised hospitals and 30 chest pain units across the province, significantly improving access to emergency cardiac care. Referring to the Sindh Institute of

Urology and Transplantation (SIUT), he said more than 35 million patients had benefited from its services since 2008, while bed capacity had increased from 760 to 1,926. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said the Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) had successfully carried out 1,362 liver transplants, while the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Institute of Trauma (SMBBIT) had emerged as the largest trauma centre in South Asia, treating over 175,000 trauma patients annually. He added that Sindh's infant mortality rate stood at 2.9%, well below the national average of 5.45%. As regards education sector, the PPP chairman said the number of public universities in Sindh had risen from 10 in 2008 to 30 today, along with 18 additional university campuses across the province. On poverty alleviation, he said the Sindh Rural Support Organisation (SRSO) programme had helped lift 1.4 million women out of poverty through soft loans, with a recovery rate of 98%. Recalling the devastating floods of 2022,

President Zardari addresses Bahrain Economic Development Board, highlights investment cooperation

PEAK POINT

MANAMA: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday underscored Pakistan's commitment to expanding economic cooperation, investment partnerships and institutional linkages with Bahrain amid addressing a reception at the headquarters of the Economic Development Board of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

In his remarks, the president expressed appreciation to King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for the warm hospitality extended during the visit, a Presidency's news release said.

He also conveyed his gratitude to the King for the conferment of the Sheikh Issa Award, describing it as a gesture that reflected the depth of bilateral ties and mutual respect between the two countries. The president noted that the reception reflected the close and enduring friendship between Pakistan and

Bahrain.

The president commended the Economic Development Board for its clear strategic vision and institutional strength, observing that Bahrain's success in positioning itself as an open and investor-friendly economy offers valuable lessons in a rapidly evolving global environment.

As Bahrain's Finance Minister began briefing on economic development, the president interjected with a light remark, gesturing towards the Manama skyline and saying that the progress was visible before him and needed no explanation.

The president noted that the Economic Development Board plays a central role in shaping Bahrain's economic strategy, attracting foreign investment and supporting diversification across key sectors. He observed that the Board's close coordination with government institutions and the private sector has helped Bahrain strengthen competitiveness, promote innovation and create a predictable and enabling environment for investors.



MANAMA: President Asif Ali Zardari being briefed by the Economic Development Board of Bahrain, in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister of Bahrain Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

CDWP approves five Uraan Pakistan health projects

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) on Thursday approved five major health sector projects under the Uraan Pakistan social sector initiative to promote people-centric development by expanding affordable healthcare, reducing catastrophic medical costs, and protecting vulnerable families from financial hardship. The CDWP meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Ahsan Iqbal. Federal Minister for National

Health Services, Regulation and Coordination, Mustafa Kamal attended the forum to support and justify the projects of his Ministry.

The CDWP approved three projects costing Rs 12,524 billion, while two additional major projects worth Rs 56,823 billion were recommended to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for consideration.

According to details, CDWP reviewed and approved a revised health sector project titled "Sehat Sahulat Program" at a cost of Rs. 40,188.216 million, and recommended it to the Executive Committee of the



National Economic Council (ECNEC) for final consideration.

Under the revised framework, the Sehat Sahulat Program is being implemented through the development budget on a universal basis in ICT, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan to expand coverage

Concern over Rawal Lake water quality, minister orders testing

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Thursday directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) to conduct comprehensive water quality testing at multiple points along the Rawal lake's inflows and outflows to identify the sources and extent of contamination.

Chairing a high-level meeting on the issue, officials briefed the minister that three major streams — Korang, Lake View and Jinnah — flow into Rawal Lake, some of which have been polluted due to the discharge of untreated sewage from nearby residential areas.

They said planning was under way to install three sewage treatment plants at Simli Road, Bari Imam and Shadrah to address the problem.

"We must ask ourselves whether this is water we are comfortable feeding to our children," the minister said.

of secondary and priority infant care. On the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal reaffirmed the government's resolve to deliver accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare as a fundamental right of citizens. Recalling the scheme's origins, the minister said the

Naqvi visits National Police Academy, inspects academy's renovation facilities

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday paid an important visit to the National Police Academy, where he reviewed ongoing renovation and upgradation works and announced a series of initiatives aimed at improving police training, welfare, and professional standards.

During the visit, the Interior Minister inspected the academy's renovated facilities, including the conference hall, dining hall, and various training rooms.

He also issued necessary directives to Commandant National Police Academy Muhammad Idrees regarding the pace and quality of work.

Addressing the under-training Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs), Naqvi announced that the ASPs will be allotted res-



idential plots upon passing out. He further stated that the current batch of officers will be trained according to international standards.

The Minister revealed that ASP trainees will also be sent to Beijing, China, for a one-month specialized training programme to enhance their exposure and skills. "We will incorporate new training modules in line with modern policing requirements," he said, adding that measures will be ensured to strengthen the officers' professional competence and practical abilities.

KP Governor meets Saudi Ambassador, discusses security situation, humanitarian aid

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday visited the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad and met with Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed, with a particular focus on the law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The KP Governor also held talks with the Saudi envoy regarding the provision of Saudi humanitarian assistance for the temporary displaced persons (TDPs) who were forced to migrate from district Khyber.

The Saudi Ambassador assured the Governor that the



King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre would provide relief items for the TDPs of district Khyber. He said that the Saudi government has always valued its relations with Pakistan and has consistently stood by the country in times of need.

Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki also expressed condolences to the Governor over the recent terrorist incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Dera Ismail Khan.

Asifa Bhutto visits Bahrain museums; stresses cultural diplomacy

PEAK POINT

MANAMA: First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari on Thursday visited the Bahrain National Museum and the Pearl Museum here, where she underscored the importance of preserving national heritage and safeguarding history as a source of identity, unity, and inspiration for future generations. The first lady was accompanied by the Minister-in-Waiting of Bahrain Anna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning. Upon arrival, she was received by Farah Mohamed Mattar, Director General of Museums and Culture, and Hani Ali Behzad, Director of



Communications and Partnerships. During the visit, First Lady Aseefa Bhutto was given a guided walking tour of both museums, which offered a compelling showcase of Bahrain's rich cultural heritage, deep historical roots, and civilizational legacy, including the Kingdom's globally renowned traditions of maritime life and pearl diving.

programme was launched in 2015 by former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif as the "Prime Minister National Health Program" to provide 100 per cent health coverage to poor and deserving families, adding that its later renaming and expansion to affluent segments in some regions led to resource misuse and limited access for genuinely needy households.

He directed that the programme be restored to its original name, stressing that public funds must remain focused on protecting vulnerable populations and strengthening the social safety net under Uraan Pakistan. The committee approved

a revised health sector project titled "Establishment of Jinnah Hospital (Polyclinic (PGM)-II) at G-11/3, Islamabad," at a total cost of Rs. 15,948.070 million, and recommended it to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for final approval.

Under the revised scope, the hospital's bed capacity has been increased from 311 to 400 to better meet growing healthcare needs in the federal capital. The project also includes the induction of modern IT systems, enhanced building and external development works, a substantial increase in biomedical equipment.