

Mohsin praises Trump's efforts for world peace

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said that the US President Donald Trump, by brokering four ceasefires, including in the war between India and Pakistan, had served humanity.

Speaking to Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the U.S. Embassy Natalie A. Baker, who called on him in Islamabad, the minister expressed optimism that the efforts being made by the US president to broker ceasefires in the war between Russia and Ukraine and

Israel and Hamas would also bear fruit. "Pakistan ties blossomed under President Trump," he said, adding, "Pakistan welcomed each and every step taken for peace."

Natalie, on the occasion, congratulated Naqvi on receiving Nishan-i-Imtiaz. She offered her condolences over the loss of lives and properties due to floods in KP and elsewhere in the country. "Our sympathies and prayers are with the families who lost their near and dear ones to floods," she added.

Natalie further said that Pakistan was a close friend of the US, and that the latter attached great importance to its ties with the former. Pak-US relations and cooperation between the two countries for combating terror and drug smuggling also came under discussion at the meeting.

Indian spy arrested

RAWALAKOT (INP): Police in Rawalakot Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) have arrested a youth who had spied for India.

As per the FIR registered at Panjgran police station of Muzaffarabad on July 23 under the Official Secrets Act, Muhammad Ubaid Jahangir, son of Muhammad Jahangir, provided the Indian intelligence RAW the GPS location of Bilal Mosque Nullah Shawai in Muzaffarabad on WhatsApp besides sharing with them other details in lieu of hefty amounts that helped the enemy country attack the mosque. Apart from that, he also shared with the RAW information about other installations.

Pakistan Army continues relief operations in flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Army is continuing rescue and relief operations in flood affected areas. Troops from Pakistan Army's Engineering Corps have been deployed in Shangla and Buner for flood relief and rescue operations.

Following the rescue operations, Pir Baba Bypass has been reopened for all types of traffic.

With the help of heavy machinery, Army restored the twenty kilometer-long Aloch-Puran road at seven locations affected by landslides. After the rescue operation, ground connectivity to Puran village has been restored.

Bus-ambulance collision claims 6 lives in RYK

RAHIM YAR KHAN (Online): As many as 6 persons including Rescue personnel have died and 3 have sustained injuries in collision between passenger bus and Rescue ambulance in Rahim Yar Khan.

According to RESCUE-1122 authorities accident took place near Kot Samaba where a passenger bus and Rescue ambulance collided with each other while rescuing a motorcycle. 6 persons including 4 RESCUE workers were killed and 3 were injured.

As per media reports bodies and injured have been shifted to hospital in precarious condition.

Pakistan, China reaffirm commitment to enhance high quality CPEC cooperation



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi addressing a joint press stakeout at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China on Thursday reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the high-quality development of the upgraded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the 6th Strategic Dialogue held here between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the entire gamut of Pakistan-China relations and discussed important regional and global issues. They also exchanged in-depth views on multiple facets of bilateral cooperation, including CPEC 2.0, trade and economic relations, multilateral cooperation, and people-to-people ties.

Addressing the joint press stakeout alongside

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Senator Ishaq Dar emphasized that the two countries enjoy complete unanimity and consensus on all major bilateral, regional, and global matters. "We are heartened by Wang Yi's vision for advancing our bilateral cooperation, especially upgrading CPEC to its next phase," Dar noted.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi described CPEC as the cornerstone of Pakistan-China strategic partnership, stating that the current priority is to advance high-quality development of the Corridor.

He said that during the 6th strategic dialogues, the two sides agreed to upgrade CPEC into "a growth corridor, livelihood-enhancing corridor, green corridor, and open corridor".

"We will work hard to deepen our industrial agri-

culture and mining cooperation to improve the Pakistani people's welfare and accelerate the Pakistan capability for self sustained development and increase Pakistan's economic resilience," he said adding that China also supports development and operation of the Gwadar port and promote the KKH realignment project.

Furthermore, the Chinese foreign minister also welcomed the third party participation in the ML-1 (Main Line Railway) project.

Ishaq Dar said during the dialogues, the two sides held the strategic dialogues on the heels of Pakistan-China-Afghanistan Foreign Ministers' trilateral meeting in Kabul. "These mechanisms signify our joint resolve to promote regional peace, stability and pros-

perity and to share the dividends of Pakistan-China freindship with other counties in region and beyond.

He also expressed gratitude to the Chinese foreign minister for China's firm support to Pakistan for safeguarding its sovereignty, territorial integrity and national dignity.

The deputy PM said the two sides also agreed to continue close cooperation at the multilateral fora particularly at the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) where Pakistan is currently serving its two years-term as a non permanent member.

"We also discussed preparation for PM Shehbaz's forthcoming visit o China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State Summit. Further he said next year Pakistan and China would celebrate 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. "We agreed that the two countries will organize a series of event in this regard."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China warmly welcomes PM shehbaz to China for the SCO summit. "The two sides will jointly prepare and ensure the success of the series of activities for the 75th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations next year."

He also expressed sympathies with Pakistan in the wake of the heavy rains, assuring that China will immediately provide emergency humanitarian assistance.

PM reaches out to political leaders; assures support to handle flood situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reached out to the leaders of different political parties and assured them of the cooperation and support of the federal government and its institutions to handle the situation caused by the heavy monsoon rains and consequent floods.

The prime minister telephoned Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and expressed grief over the loss of lives caused by the torrential rains and urban flooding in Southern Sindh, particularly Karachi.

He offered full support from the federal government to assist the Sindh government in addressing the emergency situation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz directed the National Disaster Management Authority Chairman to stay in close coordination with the Sindh government, provide all possible assistance to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority, and ensure the early warnings to the people about potential risks.

The prime minister also spoke with Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman and Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan meets Foreign Minister of China Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wang Yi, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House, in Federal Capital.

PM reaffirms resolve to deepen Pak China 'Ironclad' partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" with China, describing the bond between the two countries as a cornerstone of regional peace, stability, and development.

He was speaking during a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who called on him at the Prime Minister House here, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Welcoming Wang Yi, the Prime Minister expressed deep appreciation for China's steadfast support in safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national development. He lauded President Xi Jinping's "visionary leader-

ship" and recalled his productive meeting with the Chinese President during his visit to Beijing last year.

The Prime Minister said he looked forward to his upcoming visit to Tianjin and Beijing, where he would attend the SCO Heads of State meeting and the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance and the World Anti-Fascist War. He added that he was keenly anticipating meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and other senior Chinese leaders.

Highlighting the importance of economic cooperation, Prime Minister Shehbaz stressed Pakistan's desire to expand collaboration with China in trade, investment, ICT, agriculture, industrialization, mines, and minerals. He particularly underscored

the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan's socio-economic development and regional connectivity, expressing satisfaction with the steady progress of CPEC Phase-II. Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in his remarks, reaffirmed China's commitment to Pakistan, describing the two nations as "ironclad friends" and "all-weather strategic partners." He commended Pakistan's resolve in safeguarding sovereignty and pledged Beijing's continued support to promote regional peace, development, and stability.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and senior cabinet members.



RAWALPINDI: H.E. Mr. Khazar Fahadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, calls on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj in Rawalpindi.

Perpetrators & facilitators of 9th May will have to face the law: DG ISPR

ISLAMABAD (Online): Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has made it clear no interview has been given by Army Chief to any journalist. "The article penned by Sohail Warriach was about an event in Brussels, he said this while talking to journalists here Thursday.

He said the perpetrators and facilitators of 9th May will have to face the law. May 9 case is not only case of army but it is case of the entire nation. It was conspiracy against state of Pakistan, he added. He said the article penned by Sohail Warriach was about an event in Brussels, where hundreds of people took pictures, clarifying that the Army

Chief did not give any interview. He said there was no mention of PTI, nor any reference to an apology. This is merely a personal effort by a journalist for self-interest and publicity. The DG ISPR said it is unfortunate that even as a senior journalist, such irresponsible behaviour was displayed.

Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said Pakistan is a country that can reshape the destiny of the region. This is one reason why it faces continuous attacks. He said the young people should understand the legacy and history of their ideological state.

He said someone told them that India possesses military machine worth billions of dollars and could easily defeat Pakistan.

FO Spokesperson says Pakistan pays tribute to victims of terrorism, reaffirms resolve to defeat menace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan joined the international community Thursday in solemnly marking the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, reiterating its unwavering commitment to eliminating the scourge in all its forms and manifestations.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan, in a statement, said the day serves as a reminder of collective responsibility to stand in solidarity with victims of terrorism, honour their memory, and reaffirm global resolve against this threat.

He noted that Pakistan has been one of the worst affected countries by terrorism, suffering over 90,000 casualties and economic losses exceeding US \$150 billion. "Our security forces and people have shown unmatched resilience and made immense sacrifices to protect not only our homeland but also regional and global peace," he added. Ambassador Khan recalled recent terrorist incidents, including the Jaffar Express attack and the bombing of a school bus in Khuzdar, which claimed innocent civilian lives, including children.

Educated women central to shaping a brighter future for our society: Governor



QUETTA (6 AM Report): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail presided over the 15th Senate meeting of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU), marking the conclusion of

an intensive eight-hour session focused on steering the university toward its second phase of development.

Speaking at the meeting, the Governor described the session as a significant milestone in overcoming

the persistent challenges that the university has faced over the past four years. "With the cooperation of the Education Minister and Senate members, we have set the pace for the university's next develop-

mental phase. Our primary focus now is to enhance the quality of education and improve the university's national and international ranking," he said.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, SBKWU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rubina Mushtaq, Provincial Education Secretary Saleh Baloch, Principal Secretary to the Governor Kaleemullah Babar, Vice Chancellor of University of Loralai Prof. Dr. Ihsan Kakar, and Finance Department's Basheer Kakar, along with all members of the university Sen-

ate. Governor Mandokhail emphasized that the university is now entering a new chapter. One of the major

Governor chairs 15th Senate meeting; unveils plans to expand enrollment and boost academic standards

goals of this phase, he said, is to increase student enrollment to 16,000, thereby expanding access to quality higher education for women across the province. "Educated women are central to shaping a brighter future for our society. By empowering them, we are investing in long-term progress and

social transformation," he added.

He further stressed the importance of upholding merit-based principles and

protecting the integrity of the university. He directed the Vice Chancellor and her team to ensure that all appointments and promotions are made strictly according to established rules and regulations, free from external influence.

The session also included several key discus-

sions and the approval of important recommendations and proposals aimed at institutional reform, academic enhancement, and administrative transparency. These decisions are expected to play a pivotal role in strengthening the university's position as a leading institution for women's education in Balochistan.

In his closing remarks, Governor Mandokhail reiterated his commitment to supporting SBK Women's University in achieving its long-term objectives and commended the university leadership and faculty for their dedication and resilience.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Libyan Sovereign Fund calling on Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani at Parliament House in the federal capital.

KP government unveils comprehensive compensation & relief package for flood victims

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government on Thursday has announced compensation package for flood victims of the province.

The package announced by KP Cabinet includes approval of Rs. 2 million compensation for families of those who died in the floods and Rs. 500,000 for the injured, Rs. 1 billion for PDMA under the "Food Stamp" scheme to provide Rs. 15,000 per affected family and special martyr's package for the crew killed in a helicopter crash during Bajaur air relief operations.

Approval of a Rs. 180.3 million special package for police martyrs' families and injured personnel, Rs. 20 billion supplementary grant to complete ongoing development schemes and restore damaged infrastructure and intra-sectoral re-appropriation to improve financial management and efficient use of resources.

The package also includes approval of Rs. 62.3 million grant for holding Seerat conferences across the province during the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, exemption of Peshawar High Court from release policy and full access to the SAP system.

Approval of Rs. 20 million financial assistance for medical treatment of former MPA Shaukat Yousafzai, transfer of two kanals of land for establishing Rescue 1122 station in Tehsil Barang, District Bajaur, Rs. 1.38 billion project for construction of Kambar Bypass Road (4.5 km) in District Lower Dir, amendments in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Public Services Act 2014, appointment of Chief Commissioner for Right to Public Services Commission and nomination of two members for the Workers Welfare Board.

These decisions were taken during the 37th meeting of the Provincial Cabinet held on Wednesday night in Peshawar under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. Key decisions were made regarding the recent flood situation, provincial development goals, and other administrative matters.

The meeting was attended by cabinet members, additional chief secretaries, the senior member of the Board of Revenue, administrative secretaries, and the Advocate General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Islamic Relief International delegation calls on DC

KOHAT (APP): A delegation of Islamic Relief International Thursday called on Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rahimullah Mehsud, here in his office and discussed mutual cooperation in carrying forward the development projects in a co-ordinated manner in the future.

The delegation was led by Project Manager Sarmad Rashid, accompanied by Monitoring Officer Fahad Gilani, Community Mobilizer Ehsanullah Mehsud, and other representatives, social activist Israr Ali Bangash was also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the delegation gave a detailed briefing on the ongoing development projects and welfare activities of the organization.

They also apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the objectives of these projects, the achievements made, and the challenges being faced.

DC Rahimullah Mehsud appreciated the services of Islamic Relief International and assured the delegation of all possible cooperation.

He said the district administration was committed to promoting public service in collaboration with welfare organizations.

Govt committed to expanding punjab university of child health sciences: Salman Rafique

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has said that the government is taking concrete steps to enhance the capacity of the Punjab University of Child Health Sciences.

He expressed these views while presiding over the 14th Syndicate meeting of the University on Thursday. The minister said the Infrastructure Development Authority Punjab (IDAP) has been directed to complete the main building and a separate report on Children's Hospital II from Mahmood-ul-Hassan.

The meeting approved the decisions of the 13th Finance and Planning Committee meeting and the 17th Academic Council meeting.

The budget of the University for 2025-26 was also approved, along with recruitment permissions for 11 new posts, extensions for three positions, and additional faculty appointments.

Vice Chancellor Professor Masood Sadiq, Professor Sajid Maqbool, Additional Secretary Medical Education Sidra Saleem, Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Junaid Rashid, MD Professor Tipu Sultan, principals of allied health and nursing colleges.

Barrister Saif meets Afghan ambassador to discuss peace, trade

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif, held a meeting with the Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan, Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, on Thursday to discuss matters of mutual interest and regional cooperation.

The meeting featured detailed discussions on the critical role both countries play in ensuring lasting peace and stability in the region.

The advisor outlined the serious steps being taken by the provincial government to eliminate the threat of terrorism. He emphasized that Afghanistan's cooperation is a key component in establishing sustainable security.

Barrister Saif stated that regional development is ultimately contingent upon mutual trust and cooperation between the two nations.

Afghan Ambassador Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb emphasized the urgent need to enhance trade facilities at the Torkham border crossing.

The ambassador affirmed that the revival of robust economic and trade activities is indispensable for the well-being of the people of both countries.

Barrister Danyal leads anti-dengue campaign

RAWALPINDI (APP): Barrister Danyal Chaudhary, Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting conducted an extensive inspection of dengue prevention efforts across various areas of the city on Thursday. He led "Make Rawalpindi Dengue-Free Campaign", during which he examined the proactive measures and interacted with the people.

Accompanied by health officers, he visited Jhanda Chichi, Chaklala Scheme-III and Shah Khalid Colony to assess measures aimed at reducing the spread of dengue. The inspection covered various locations including institutions, graveyards, shops, and residential localities. Areas found with significant dengue larvae presence were immediately sealed to prevent further breeding. Barrister Danyal directed sanitation teams to intensify cleaning operations and ensure effective waste management.

Speaking during the visit, he urged residents to actively cooperate with health workers in the fight against dengue.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST EXTENSION IN EOI SUBMISSION DATE

Name of country: Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Project: Housing Reconstruction Unit (HRU) Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project (IFRAP)
Project No.: 180323
Assignment of Title: Independent Technical Verification Consultant (ITPV)
Activity No: PK-HRU-IFRAP-500104-CS-QCBS
1. This refers to the advertisement for hiring Independent Technical Verification Consultant (ITVC) published in various newspapers i.e. Daily Dawn, Jang, on 25th July 2025.
2. The date of submitting the Expression of Interest is hereby extended from 21th August 2025 to 1st September 2025.
3. All other conditions mentioned in the original REOI will remain unchanged.
Project Director
Housing Reconstruction Unit (HRU)-IFRAP
H. No 57-A Chaman Housing Society Airport Road Quetta
Ph. No-0812081372
Email: ceo@hru.org.pk, Web: https://hru.org.pk/

Murad launches Pakistan's largest special technology zone at education city

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday declared the signing of landmark agreements for Education City as a "historic milestone" for the province and Pakistan, paving the way for the establishment of the country's largest Special Technology Zone (STZ), alongside major foreign investments in renewable energy and energy storage solutions.

The signing ceremony, held at CM House, was attended by Energy Ministers Syed Nasir Shah, Chairman Education City Board Dr Asim Hussain, Special Assistant to CM Syed Qasim Naveed, PSCM Agha Wasif, Chairman STZA Azfra Manzoor, Secretary Investment Khuram Shahzad, PD Education City Abrar Ahmad, Jo Hanns Dieter Trutschler, Chairman Board / Verwaltungsrats Präsiden Meeco AG/ meeco holding, Axel Kaiser, M/s. Meeco AG/ Meeco holding and others.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the chief minister said the 435-acre Special Technology Zone at

Education City, will be the first of its kind under the Sindh government, designed to become a hub of innovation, entrepreneurship, and knowledge-driven economic growth.

The first agreement was signed between the Education City Project and the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), Cabinet Division, Government of Pakistan. Under this Zone Development Agreement, the project will advance under a transparent framework, covering master planning, financing, construction, operations, and governance. The initiative will also digitally integrate Education City with STZA's central e-portal to streamline licensing, regulatory approvals, and investor facilitation.

The second set of agreements brought global clean energy leader M/s Meeco AG of Switzerland on board as a strategic partner. M/s Meeco will establish a renewable energy plant based on wind, solar, and battery storage technologies to power Education City. Electricity will be supplied at \$ 0.11/kWh for

the first 10 years, competitive with existing providers, along with a 4 per cent royalty for Education City. The tariff will decline after the first decade, making the project highly sustainable and investor-friendly.

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with M/s Meeco to establish a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for advanced energy storage solutions within Education City STZ. Backed by an estimated €100 million in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the facility will produce energy storage modules for domestic use and export to international markets. The project is expected to create over 1,000 direct and indirect jobs, foster technology transfer, and strengthen Pakistan's role in the global clean energy supply chain.

Calling Education City, a vision for Pakistan's future, Murad Shah said the integration of education, technology, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing will create an ecosystem driving sustainable growth and global competitiveness.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with U.S. Consul General Scott Urbom who paid him a farewell visit at the Chief Minister's House.

Governor Sindh visits rain affected areas across Karachi, assures full support to citizens

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori Thursday visited various rain-affected areas of Karachi. The Governor toured M.A. Jinnah Road, Saddar, Guru Mandir, Gulbahar, Board Office, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Hyderi, KDA, Five Star, New Karachi, Nagan Chowrang, Power House Chowrang, and Surjani Town, where he met with the affected residents, listened to their grievances, and assured them of all possible assistance.

During the visit, Governor Sindh, accompanied by senior MQM Pakistan leader Dr. Farooq Sattar, also distributed cooked food and bottled water among rain-affected citizens.

Later, talking to the media at Governor House alongside Dr. Farooq Sattar, he said that the power system in Karachi and Hyderabad had collapsed due to the rains, leaving citizens in severe distress. He added that in Surjani Phase-II, floodwater had entered people's homes, and food and water were being provided to families on rooftops.

Governor Tessori informed that he had coordinated with the Mayor of Karachi and electricity authorities, following which water had been drained from several areas, though low-lying localities were still inundated.

He emphasized that the causes of these recurring issues must be identified in order to devise permanent solutions through consultation. In this regard, he assured full cooperation with the Sindh government and the Mayor of Karachi.

He revealed that 1,095 complaints were received at the Governor House Complaint Cell in a single day, while more than 11,000 complaints had been registered since the cell's establishment.



LAHORE: Rescue personnel are conducting flood response training exercises in the River Ravi to prepare for unforeseen emergencies.

Chief Secretary reviews flood relief & rehabilitation efforts

PESHAWAR (APP): A high-level meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahab Ali Shah, to assess the ongoing relief and rehabilitation activities in the districts affected by recent floods.

The meeting focused on coordinating efforts and addressing the immediate needs of the affected communities. The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of providing maximum relief to the affected populations and instructed that the registration process for government financial aid packages be expedited.

He highlighted that the provincial cabinet has already approved a food stamp package worth Rs. 15,000 per family, which must be distributed in a transparent and timely manner.

To facilitate this, he emphasized the need for priority completion of the verification process in coordination with NADRA.

The Deputy Commissioners provided



KARACHI: Children remove rainwater from their homes after torrential rains at Rahim goth in as Since the start of the monsoon season on 26 June, the death toll from rains and flooding in Pakistan has reached at least 748.

TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Director, Agriculture (On Farm Water Management) Kech, invites sealed Tender/Bid for execution of following works for the financial year of 2025-26 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rate, from eligible contractors/firms with the Bid Security @ 2% of estimated cost in shape of Call Deposit (Refundable). The non-refundable Tender Form Fee to be deposited in any National Bank of Pakistan Branch situated in Balochistan Province through Green Bank Challan in a head of account (C03136) (verified by the District Accounts Officer).

Only electronic bid will be submitted, no physical bid is required. Tender Fee (Rupees) 2000/- for each work

S#	Name of Works	Total Estimated Cost (Rupees)
1	SOLARISATION OF AGRICULTURE BORE FOR THE FARMERS OF BULEDA ZOOR ABAD AREA KECH, UNDER PSDP 2025-26 S. NO. 90 [22025.2231] TSE-252608818673 i) Installation of Solar Pumping System on Bore Dynamic Head up to 240 Rft (20 No.)	49,306,964
2	SOLARISATION OF AGRICULTURE BORE FOR THE FARMERS OF BULEDA JAHANGIR ABAD AREA KECH, UNDER PSDP 2025-26 S. NO. 94 [22025.2232] TSE-252608817923 ii) Installation of Solar Pumping System on Bore Dynamic Head up to 240 Rft (20 No.)	49,306,964

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 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 30,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Up to 65 million) In Relevant Category and Specialized Code is EE11(i) (Solar). Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk. Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk. Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 04 September, 2025 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Deputy Director Agriculture OFWM District Kech, Turbat Phone no: 03323906253; Email: agricultureofwmkech@gmail.com

Deputy Director
Agriculture On Farm Water
Management Kech

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SHO suspended over fake FIR

SIALKOT (APP): District Police Officer (DPO), Faisal Shehzad on Thursday suspended SHO Headmurala police station over misuse of powers and registration of a fake FIR.

According to DPO office sources, the action was taken by the DPO over complaints against SHO Headmurala Inspector Ehsan Elahi.

He said the police department would not tolerate an negligence regarding professional work, and departmental inquiry would be held to take necessary action.

FIA held three agents, a passenger

FAISALABAD (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) have arrested three agents and a passenger trying to travel abroad on fake documents at Faisalabad International Airport.

According to official sources here on Thursday, the accused were identified as Muhammad Amir, Muhammad Fahad, Sadiq Ali (agents) and Muhammad Nadeem (passenger).

The passenger Nadeem was off-loaded when he was trying to flee to New Zealand via Dubai. Nadeem has paid an amount of Rs 6.7 million to the agents.

Daily 6AM, Quetta
Friday August 22, 2025

Paralysed city

Monsoon havoc has yet again brought death and suffering to Karachi, with Tuesday’s ‘unprecedented’ downpour paralyzing life in this unfortunate city.

Rain-related disasters have been witnessed elsewhere in Pakistan as well, particularly KP and GB, with hundreds of deaths reported in the former. But Karachi’s issues of urban flooding are unique in many ways, exacerbated by bad planning and unchecked growth. The mayor has attributed the disaster to ‘climate change’.

While the latter phenomenon has indeed contributed to erratic weather patterns, global warming alone is not the key culprit responsible for Karachi’s rain-related plight — by now, a grim annual spectacle — as soon as the monsoon clouds arrive.

Flooded streets, people trapped on roads for hours and lack of electricity for long periods during stifling weather conditions were some of the outcomes of Tuesday’s wet spell. Indeed, many parts of the city received a high volume of precipitation, but even less intense rain spells have previously brought the wheels of urban life to a grinding halt.

Disturbing visuals of motorists and bikers trapped on thoroughfares resembling raging torrents, and water entering houses and apartment blocks show that something is seriously wrong with Karachi’s drainage system. And the fixes applied to the problem do not seem to be working.

For example, a drainage system, reportedly costing hundreds of millions of rupees, was installed in the up-market DHA area, but failed to stop flooding in the neighbourhood. DHA is controlled by a cantonment board, beyond the jurisdiction of civilian agencies. People living in low-income, low-lying areas were similarly affected.

From the august Supreme Court and independent urban experts to people venting their rage on social media — all have expressed their dismay over the fact that Karachi lacks a proper drainage system, and that the monsoon-related destruction is repeated year after year.

The fact is that the problem has been decades in the making, and it would be unfair to blame the present government alone. Successive administrations have neglected Karachi or paid lip service to its civic issues, as encroachers and land grabbers have steadily disfigured its face.

Karachi’s urban issues, including the faulty drainage, are complex, and decades of neglect cannot be undone in weeks or months.

But a start must be made somewhere and the key problems of the city, primarily solid waste disposal, provision of water, a working sewerage system, fair land management, etc, which are all intertwined, must be addressed by the city’s managers and independent experts.

Moreover, a better LG system, which responds to local issues promptly and is answerable to the people, is essential to resolve Karachi’s civic woes, as multiple agencies controlling land in the city also complicates civic governance.

Floods and politics

Khurram Husain

There is no room left now to turn rain-related catastrophes into a political whipping spectacle.

This summer, three provinces controlled by the three major political parties have borne the brunt of a major rain-related emergency, and none is in a position to accuse the other of not having done enough to prepare their province for the calamity.

The clear fact is that Pakistan is facing accelerating climate change impacts and needs to think outside of conventional frameworks in order to build resilience and preparedness. The monsoon is intensifying, glaciers are melting, near catastrophic heatwaves are becoming more and more frequent. This is not political theatre. It is a dire and urgent new reality opening up before us with rising ferocity. The first thing to shed is the reflex to politicise these catastrophes, because that literally does nothing to help.

The three governments — in KP, Punjab and Sindh — have just faced unusually strong rain events. But notice how turning these calamities into opportunities for political point-scoring has backfired spectacularly. When Punjab was inundated in July, for instance, the PTI lawmakers in the provincial assembly held what they called a ‘people’s assembly’ outside the building in protest against the suspension of their colleagues. So far so good. Politics and theatre are cousins after all.

But some among them took the opportunity to skewer the provincial government for the rain-related devastation in the province. Three among them were named in a report carried by this newspaper, and their criticism of the government of Maryam Nawaz took aim at the floods caused by the rains. Crops and farmland were destroyed, they shouted, homes caved in, and “development projects” showcased by the Punjab government were “washed away”. Yet the government “remains indifferent”, according to the report.

There is much that each provincial government needs to do to increase preparedness for the natural disasters hitting the country.

The need and desire of the opposition to protest stridently in Punjab is understandable, given the suspensions that their colleagues have been served. Those that kept the focus on the politics of suppression their party is facing had a clear message. But those that veered and tried to use a natural calamity for political point-scoring were in for a nasty surprise only a few days later when the province run by their own party — KP — was hit by an even larger rain-related calamity.

All the criticism they had levelled at the Punjab government was now washed away as the devastation in KP was larger by order of magnitude to what Punjab had seen. If we keep only a political lens when viewing these disasters, who do we blame for the devastation in KP?

Pretty soon, officials from both provinces were bickering over the meaning of the word ‘cloudburst’. Both provinces had ascribed their devastation to a ‘cloudburst’. In Punjab, they pointed to Chakwal, and in KP, they said Buner had seen a ‘cloudburst’. Then the Met Office weighed in, reminding both that the word ‘cloudburst’ refers to a very specific event and no such event had been seen in Chakwal or

Buner, and urged them both to refrain from using this word to describe the cause of their respective devastation.

Why this insistence on ‘cloudburst’? Because cloudbursts are nearly impossible to forecast, and attributing rain disaster to them gets officialdom off the hook for having been unprepared. This is why it is now almost routine for provincial governments to use this word when explaining rain-related calamities in their province.

At the time of writing, Karachi is bracing for a second round of intense rain; the first left the city flooded on Tuesday, following more than 200mm of rain in a 12-hour period.

The flooding was bad, but the drainage was better. I’m old enough to remember when smaller rain events in 1991 or 2006 left the city flooded for days on end. This time, as in 2020 or 2022, they cleared it within hours. So far, so good.

But the question remains: what prevents faster real-time drainage to keep flooding from becoming as dire as it does in the first place? The foremost expert on the disaster that is Karachi’s urban planning, Arif Hasan, has a good interview with that intrepid podcaster Shehzad Ghias in which he explains how overdevelopment on three main drainage channels is a major contributor to the flooding.

There is much that each provincial government needs to do to increase preparedness for these disasters that are hitting the country with growing intensity and frequency. And it all begins with superior weather forecasting capabilities. Without this, we are flying blind into a storm.

A former chief meteorologist of the country has

an important contribution here. In a report in this paper, he is quoted as saying that Pakistan has 85 automatic weather stations around the country to cover more than 700,000 square kilometres of its land mass. According to the World Meteorological Organisation guidelines, there should be one for every 100 square kilometres of flat terrain, and 50 sq km of hilly terrain. This means we are short by factors of thousands in terms of our ability to monitor threats emanating from the weather.

With this critical weakness we will forever fumble in the dark as the weather turns increasingly hostile. And the resultant calamities will forever be sublimated only through political blaming and political-scoring, getting us nowhere.

A warning sign came around a decade ago when Pakistan experienced five massive floods in five years. Once more, nature is warning that politics alone will not save us.

Three floods in one summer in three provinces controlled by each major political party is a clear enough sign that scoring political points in the middle of natural calamities is the lowest form of politics in the country today.

Those who engage in this behaviour are the same as those who in years past tried to score political points via fuel price hikes or ex-change rate adjustments. It is time to grow up.

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Blame game

Syed Saadat

It is not every day that a federal minister accuses his own country’s bureaucracy of buying property in Europe — with black money. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif recently did just that — asserting that over half the bureaucracy owns property in Portugal and is ready to run away. Federal ministers throwing their own team under the bus is nothing new in Pakistan. Something similar was witnessed in 2020 by the then aviation minister, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, when he alleged that over 150 pilots of the national flag carrier had fake licences. This disclosure — later found to be inaccurate — resulted in a ban on PIA’s flying to destinations in Europe, which took a long time to be lifted.

Mr Asif’s recent post has unnecessarily dragged the bureaucratic community — already low on morale — into the spotlight. In a profession where accusations tend to stick longer than promotions, being tarred with the same brush as a few shady fellow bureaucrats is no small matter. Particularly not when it is done by someone in the cabinet room. And yet, amid all the noise made by the ‘judge, jury and executioner’ mindset, as evident on social media, the question lingers: was he entirely wrong?

The honest response, if one is willing to listen past the noise, would be: not entirely. There are indeed some in public service who have allegedly amassed wealth that their payslips cannot explain. Some are believed to have quietly invested abroad, under the names of relatives or through real estate proxies. The Portuguese Golden Visa programme has certainly had its share of Pakistani applicants — not just bureaucrats but also businessmen, politicians and others who understand that visas are the new currency of certainty in an uncertain world.

But the real issue here isn’t just whether some bureaucrats own property abroad. It’s about the optics, timing and consequences of making such a

sweeping statement in public. A senior cabinet member alleging that over half of Pakistan’s senior bureaucracy has exported unaccounted for wealth to Europe is not the kind of headline you want floating around while Pakistan and US officials are in talks to finalise the finer details of a trade deal that includes investment.

To paint the majority of bureaucrats as corrupt is unfair.

What makes the situation even more curious is the accompanying anecdote he shared about a top bureaucrat linked to a former PTI chief minister allegedly receiving Rs4 billion in ‘salami’ — ceremonial wedding gifts. Whether or not the story is true (and Mr Asif offered no proof), it plays into a growing public perception that the bureaucracy is not just complicit in corruption, but celebrated for it. Rs4bn is not the kind of money that one should only tweet about; all hell should break loose. It would not be wrong to assume that the minister may have wanted to deflect criticism intended for him or his government by trying to project someone else — the bureaucracy in this case — in an even more negative light.

Pakistan’s bureaucracy, for all its faults, is still the only permanent organ of state. Ministers come and go. Cabinets are reshuffled.

But files are moved, summaries are cleared, and policies implemented — or quietly buried — by the bureaucracy.

To paint the majority as corrupt — or worse, foreign-born fugitives in waiting — is not just unfair, it is also institutionally self-destructive.

If the government believes the bureaucracy is compromised, it should take action. Strengthen asset declaration requirements. Institute lateral accountability. Use data. And do not resort to drama. The public expects ministers to talk less and govern more. The bureaucracy expects to be held accountable for its actions and not just thrown under the bus without consequences.

Illusion of trading

Asad Baig

Recently, Ducky Bhai found himself behind bars. The charge: his promotion of ‘binary trading’ apps. To understand how these betting rackets operate, we first need to examine the legitimate practices they mimic to create an appearance of credibility.

Stock trading has long since moved from the shouting pits of Wall Street to digital dashboards accessible across the world. Today, millions of people buy and sell equities, bonds, commodities, and currencies online through regulated brokers. Platforms like Interactive Brokers in the US, and similar licensed services across Europe and Asia, are bound by strict laws that ensure trades are executed on actual exchanges, client funds are segregated and investors protected. These legitimate platforms make their money from commissions, spreads or service fees.

Thus, when you invest through these licensed platforms, you acquire ownership in the underlying asset. Buy shares of NVIDIA, for example, and you hold a real stake in the company, complete with rights to dividends and the potential to profit if the stock price rises. The transaction is transparent, recorded on an exchange, and governed by rules protecting both the company and the investor.

In Pakistan, the same principle applies. When you buy shares of a company through PSX via a licensed broker, you are acquiring actual equity in that business. Your investment and ownership are recorded, and your returns depend on the genuine performance of that company.

There’s no transparency in how ‘binary trading’ platforms operate.

Unlike licensed brokers, these so-called binary trading platforms never actually take your money to a real market. The charts they display may track the price of equities and assets like NVIDIA or gold, but that is where the similarity ends. Behind the glossy interface, there is no purchase of shares, no settlement on an exchange and no custodial record of

ownership. Instead, the entire transaction happens inside the app itself, an opaque, over-the-counter-style arrangement where users place bets on whether a chart will move up or down in the next few minutes.

In these systems, profits and losses are not determined by market mechanisms, but by the platform’s system, often governed by algorithms that ensure the house always has the edge. In effect, what looks like trading is nothing more than gambling dressed up in financial jargon.

First, there is no transparency in how these platforms operate. While they mimic the price action of real assets like gold or oil, there is no guarantee the numbers are not stacked against the user. The algorithms are fully controlled by the platform, which means the ‘market’ you see could be nothing more than a rigged simulation.

Second, these platforms deliberately place themselves outside the reach of strong regulators. Instead of registering in jurisdictions like the US or Europe, where securities laws are strict and enforcement is aggressive, they base themselves in countries with lax or minimal oversight. This keeps them safely out of the legal reach of authorities most capable of holding them accountable.

Third, the business model relies on targeting vulnerable markets, such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, while avoiding regions like the US and the EU. They know regulators in these markets are less likely to clamp down quickly, making it easier to prey on large populations of young, internet-savvy users looking for quick profits.

Disturbingly, the financial side of these operations is as murky. Many take deposits in cryptocurrencies, and withdrawals are routed through shady, individual-run exchanges. Not only are such exchanges often illegal, but they can disappear overnight with your money, leaving no trail of activity.

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Naturally, with all this dodgy behaviour, these platforms cannot afford to buy slots on Bloomberg or CNBC the way regulated firms do.

Instead, they rely on an underground economy of influencers and YouTubers, dangling referral codes and flashy promises of instant wealth, an ecosystem built on hype and deception.

So next time an influencer in a Land Cruiser boasts about getting rich through ‘trading’ on some app, remember that unless they mention regulation and legitimacy, they’re selling you illegal betting. You risk losing your money in an instant, and possibly fuelling crimes from fraud to drugs, even terror.

Law enforcement and media, too, should stop calling these platforms ‘trading’ or ‘forex’ apps; the former are legitimate, regulated structures that add substantially to our economy, while the latter are nothing more than gambling dens in disguise, akin to organised crime.

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F.S.Aijazuddin

Negotiating on home ground yields a tactical advantage. Recent history offers some examples.

Take the pre-World War II war meetings between Chancellor Adolf Hitler and Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in 1938. Hitler ensured that the talks were held in Germany — in his mountain eyrie of Berchtesgaden, at Bad Godesberg on the Rhine, and in Munich. Chamberlain returned from Munich, clutching what he thought was an agreement. Hitler re-pudiated it as ‘a piece of paper’. In March 1939, Hitler annexed the whole of Czechoslovakia. Great Britain lost the peace and then went to war over Hitler’s next mouthful — Poland.

In 1972, Mrs Indira Gandhi invited Pakistan’s president, Z.A. Bhutto, to the Raj Bha--van in Shimla. Bhutto had to fly to India. He did not have the choice Field Marshal Ayub Khan was offered (following the 1965 war with India) of Tashkent for the Soviet-brokered peace talks. Tashkent proved fatal for both leaders: Prime minister Lal Bah-a-dur Shastri died there; Ayub Khan, like Chamberlain, returned home politically damaged.

In 2001, an underprepared Gen Musharraf decided to gamble against PM A.B. Vajpayee. Their encounter took place in Agra. Their talks might have led to an agreement — a capstone to the 1999 Lahore Declaration, signed by PM Vajpayee and PM Nawaz Sharif in Lahore — had hubris not overtaken Musharraf. He thought he would present Pakistan’s case before a press conference of dispassionate Indian journalists. (Is there such a species?) He antagonised the Indians further by meeting the Kashmiri leadership represented by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. They, like the Czechs, had not been invited to the talks on their future.

History warns against leaping into ill-prepared summits. Vajpayee did not disguise his mistrust of Musharraf. He had seen his

Home ground

bus yatra run off the road by Kargil. So, he took the matter before his cabinet colleagues L.K. Advani and Sushma Swaraj who waited in the wings. They sabotaged any possibility of a deal.

No Indian leader since Nehru has been comfortable negotiating with a Pakistani whose constituency wears a uniform. In 2015, PM Modi took the initiative in his front-door diplomacy by visiting PM Nawaz Sharif in Raiwind, outside Lahore. It was a step too far. Sharif felt casually to this well-meant but provocative gesture. Modi has now practically upended all Indo-Pak agreements, since including the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty. He has made clear that to him, as to Hitler, such agreements are merely the paving stones to war.

History warns leaders against leaping into ill-prepared summits, even on home ground. US President Trump, for his recent meeting with Russian President Putin on Aug 15, chose a US military base in Anchorage, Alaska.

In a carefully synchronised spectacle, both leaders disembarked simultaneously and as they stood on the platform, United States Air Force fighter planes and a B-2 bomber flew overhead. Unfazed by this ham-handed salute, Putin accepted Trump’s offer of a lift in Trump’s limousine (known as The Beast). CBS has reported that they were not accompanied by any aides or interpreters.

Putin watchers know that he speaks English passably well, enough to correct his interpreters when they make a mistake. It is not inconceivable that substantive decisions in Anchorage took place in the privacy of that car ride.

The rest of the formal discussions spread over almost three hours were, one suspects, pure theatre — a Kabuki performance, without Japanese actors.

The summit ended inconclusively. Putin (speaking in English) invited Trump to visit Moscow for round two. Trump ungraciously cancelled the working lunch

with Putin and flew home, with-out a piece of paper.

The one performer who expected to be given a part — even a walk-on one — was the former Ukrainian entertainer president V. Zelensky. He should have remembered that in 1938, Czechoslovakia (the victim of German aggression) was not invited to Munich. Czechoslovakia lost first its territory of Sudetenland to Hitler, and then its entire country.

Trump assuaged Zelensky’s ego by inviting him to the White House on Aug 18. Supporting the diminutive Ukrainian came a cohort of European leaders, including France’s Macron, Britain’s Starmer, and Germany’s Merz. They pressed Trump to provide a security guarantee similar to Nato’s Article 5, ie, that an attack on Ukraine would be considered an attack on all Nato countries.

In effect, Ukraine would be given Nato’s protection, short of actual membership.

Trump interrupted his session with the European leaders to call Putin. Afterwards, Trump took Zelensky and the European leaders into the Oval Office to describe his discussion with Putin. Trump is clear. He does not want a direct war with Putin. He wants Zelensky and his European sponsors to decide which part of Ukraine should be amputated and fed to the Russian bear.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being briefed on different desks of Board of Investment's 1st Business Facilitation Center.

Jam Kamal, Bangladesh adviser discuss industrial cooperation to boost bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Minister for Commerce of Pakistan, Jam Kamal Khan, held productive discussions with Bangladesh's Adviser for Industries, Adilur Rahman Khan, in Dhaka on Thursday to explore avenues for industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Imran Haider, was also present during the meeting, said a release issued here.

The Minister and the Adviser underscored the importance of leveraging their economic and industrial base to the mutual advantage of the two countries to address issues of food security, value addition in the food industry, and aligning industrial technology. Discussions focused on exchanging expertise across diverse sectors through mutual exchange of delegations and knowledge sharing.

The Minister for Commerce emphasized Pakistan's keen interest in being a part of Bangladesh's evolving industrial landscape through collaboration, joint ventures and mutual investment.

He emphasised the need for a shared vision to create a facilitative economic ecosystem for industrial growth.

Building on the positive growth in bilateral trade, he underscored the need to transform this relationship into a sustainable partnership.

He focused on value-addition industries for revenue generation and socio-economic uplift and appreciated Bangladesh's growth in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, and Information Technology.

The Adviser for Industries highlighted Bangladesh's progress in industrial development and acknowledged Bangladesh's growing industrial requirements. The Adviser showed keen interest in knowledge sharing and industrial collaboration. He identified leather, shipbuilding, sugar, agro-processing, and SMEs as areas of possible collaboration.

The meeting concluded with a mutual resolve to build on bilateral trade and industrial development through collaborative efforts.

PSX turns bearish, sheds 1,355 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index turned around to bearish trend on Thursday, losing 1,355.74 points, a negative change of 0.90 percent, closing at 149,235.26 points against 150,591.00 points last trading day.

A total of 1,062,993,695 shares were traded during the day as compared to 667,817,396 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 55.824 billion against Rs 40,728 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 480 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 130 of them recorded gains and 323 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 27 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Fauji Foods Limited with 62,087,443 shares at Rs 16.94 per share, Pak Elektron with 57,228,568 shares at Rs45.36 per share and Telecard Limited with 56,939,244 shares at Rs 8.34 per share.

SAPM holds meeting on National Industrial Policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Thursday held a high level meeting to discuss the contours of the upcoming National Industrial Policy.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Power Division Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, Chairman FBR, and the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, said a news release.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on reducing the cost of power, promoting green energy, upgrading the transmission and distribution network, and ensuring sustainable growth of the industrial sector.

SAPM Haroon said under the vision of Prime Minister, the National Industrial Policy will serve as a catalyst for industrial growth and enhanced exports.

He emphasized that the policy has prepared in consultation with both public and private stakeholders and provides a comprehensive package addressing key industrial challenges.

SAPM highlighted that the policy includes the revival of sick industrial units, improved access to credit, measures to counter undue harassment by government authorities, and reforms in bankruptcy laws.

He further announced that a National Industrial Revival Commission would be established to oversee implementation and provide a redressal mechanism for complaints.

To facilitate investors and strengthen confidence, SAPM underscored that contract enforcement would be ensured. He also noted that, inspired by the Chinese model, one-window services will be introduced in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to streamline industrial operations.

Shafay reviews overall progress of FIEDMC

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain chaired an important meeting to review overall performance of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) here at PSIC House on Thursday.

The provincial minister expressed satisfaction over the measures taken by FIEDMC during the last one year for the promotion of investment. Secretary Industries Muhammad Umar Masood, Chairman FIEDMC Rana Azhar Waqar, CEO Mian Jameel Ahmad, Senior Economic Adviser Javed Iqbal, and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that during the last one year, effective steps had been taken to attract investment in industrial estates managed by FIEDMC. Construction of boundary walls, better security arrangements, and better industrial infrastructure

had resulted in new investments worth billions of rupees. In the last six months, 64 industrial plots were sold in Allama Iqbal Industrial City. He said that setting up industrial units on these plots would bring local investment worth Rs. 119,526 million and foreign investment worth Rs. 7,601 million, creating employment for 6,582 people.

In M-3 Industrial City, 16 industrial plots were sold during the past six months.

Establishment of industrial units on these plots would bring local investment of Rs. 4,205 million and foreign investment of Rs. 1,598 million, creating 2,000 new jobs. The provincial minister emphasized that if industries were not established on the acquired plots according to policy, the plots would be canceled. He made it clear that there would be no compromise on the quality of ongoing development works in the industrial estates.

Chinese Company uses AI and Beidou Navigation to reclaim millions of acres

ISLAMABAD (INP): Facing the global challenge of desertification, M-Grass Ecology Group, China's leading grass seed technology company, has launched an ecological restoration solution centered on smart equipment and innovative seed technologies.

The company's self-developed seed rope sowing robots, customized seed products, and intelligent management systems are poised to offer sustainable restoration methods for countries along the Belt and Road, including Central Asia and the Middle East, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday.

Seed ropes and Beidou navigation for precise desert restoration. Chen Ruijue,

Vice President of M-Grass, says manual efforts simply can't keep up in vast, sparsely populated, and remote areas with limited connectivity. Using Beidou satellite navigation and AI algorithms, the company developed intelligent sowing equipment capable of planning its own paths.

"Through remote sensing and visual recognition, the system can automatically identify areas with sparse vegetation and adjust sowing accordingly, greatly improving efficiency and reducing costs," Chen explained.

M-Grass is the only publicly listed grass seed company in China and ranks fourth globally for innovation in the sector.



QUETTA: A fruit trader arranges apple bags to attract customers at Joint Road, Quetta.

Gilani urges stronger Pakistan Libya ties in energy, agriculture, and investment sectors

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, has emphasized the need to expand cooperation between Pakistan and Libya in energy, sustainable infrastructure, agricultural exports, SME financing, fintech, and Islamic banking. He underlined that strengthening economic partnership in these areas would give new momentum to bilateral relations, foster financial innovation, and contribute to long-term stability and shared prosperity.

He made these remarks during a meeting with a high-level delegation from

Libya's sovereign fund, the Libya African Investment Company (LAFICO). The delegation was led by Mr. Jihad Jamal Al-Buragh (Director-designate, LAFICO), Mr. Tariq Mahmood, CFA (Managing Director & CEO, Pak-Libya Holding Company), Deputy Managing Director Mr. Basheer B. Omar Matoug, and Mr. Aamir Zareef Khan (SEVP & Company Secretary, Pak-Libya Holding Company).

Welcoming the delegation, Chairman Senate highlighted the decades-long partnership between Pakistan and Libya, strengthened by the establishment of the Pak-Libya Holding

Company in 1978. He commended the recent turnaround of the institution under its new leadership, noting its stronger governance framework, diversified investment portfolio, and enhanced role in SME, renewable energy, and private sector financing.

Mr. Jihad Jamal Al-Buragh, Director-designate of LAFICO, expressed appreciation to the Chairman Senate for according priority to the meeting, noting that it reflected the importance Pakistan attaches to bilateral economic relations. He reaffirmed that LAFICO remains strongly focused on Pakistan, is ac-

tively exploring new avenues of growth, and is committed to synergizing investments between the two countries.

Mr. Tariq Mahmood, CFA, Managing Director & CEO of Pak-Libya Holding Company, briefed the Chairman that the institution is now moving on a positive trajectory after a successful turnaround, and is once again focused on its original mandate as a Development Finance Institution. He highlighted that Pak-Libya is now working to synergize investors from both Pakistan and Libya, creating joint opportunities in priority sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal in a group photograph during launching ceremony of Economic Census Results.

Ahsan Iqbal launches Pakistan's first digital economic census to boost data-driven growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday launched the first "Digital Economic Census" and said that this data-set will facilitate the country's economy to be based on scientific planning.

This is Pakistan's first economic census, and these statistics will assist with national economic planning, including good governance, unemployment and better utilization of national resources and sustainable economic growth in the country, the Minister said.

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said this while launching of "Ceremony of Economic Census – Main Findings Report" organized by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here today in the Ministry of Planning Auditorium.

The Minister described this Census report as a significant milestone to achieve the socio-economic goals and said that

this economic census will provide a basis for scientific economic planning, which can lead to a transformative impact on sustainable economic growth of the country.

Meanwhile, on the occasion the Minister for Planning said that 40 million buildings were Geo-tagged during the census, revealing that 7.2 million entities are engaged in economic activities.

Ahsan said that every entity has been recorded with an industrial code to ensure decisions on a scientific basis, and this economic census also brings to the fore the economic activities taking place at the domestic level.

He said that 10 million households are engaged in economic activities or operating micro businesses, and this information will help us to further empower the women and strengthen Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SME) in the country.

The Planning Minister said that out of 7.2 million units, 2.7 million are

associated with retail business and 88000 with wholesale business.

The Minister said there are 825000 retailers, 23000 factories across the country are contributing to the production, while there are 643000 small production units.

Ahsan said the economic data will provide us with an opportunity to bring the undocumented economy into the mainstream.

He said that this census also provides us with valuable data for the social sector, and there are 242000 Schools and 36331 Madaris in the country, and there are 11,568 colleges and 214 universities also in the report.

The Minister said that the number of health facilities stands at 119000, while the number of places of worship is 6000, and this data will help the country to improve service delivery and ensure good governance and economic resources management.



KARACHI: Vice Chairman BBoIT Bilal Khan Kakar talking to Consul General of UAE in Karachi Bakheet Ateeq Alreimeithi, Provincial Secretary Energy Dawood Bazai and FPCCI Mian Zahid Hussain are also present.

UAE CG to lead trade delegation to Balochistan soon

High-level meeting in Karachi explores vast investment opportunities in the province

KARACHI (6 AM Report): A high-level delegation comprising Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Investment Bilal Khan Kakar, Balochistan Energy Secretary Dawood Bazai, and Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Mian Zahid Hussain, visited the Consulate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Karachi on Wednesday.

The delegation was warmly received by the UAE Consul General, Mr. Bakhit Ateek Ali Alyan Al Rumaithi. Discussions focused on the vast investment opportunities in Balochistan, strengthening bilateral trade relations, and exploring future cooperation.

It was decided during the meeting that a UAE trade delegation, led by Consul General Al Rumaithi, will soon visit Balochistan to review investment projects firsthand

and hold meetings with local stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Bilal Khan Kakar highlighted that Balochistan is the gateway to the region and a land rich in resources, with immense potential in minerals, fisheries, agriculture, and energy. "We want the world to witness Balochistan closely and benefit from its opportunities. As a brotherly nation, the UAE can prove to be an excellent partner," he said, assuring that the Government of Balochistan is committed to providing all possible facilities and protection to investors.

Kakar added that Balochistan is poised to become not only Pakistan's but the region's key hub of trade and economy in the near future.

Echoing these sentiments, UAE Consul General Al Rumaithi said relations between the UAE and Pakistan have always been deep and fraternal.

Monsoon tree plantation drive

CJ BHC Bareech stresses forest preservation to combat climate change

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court, Justice Rozi Khan Bareech, has said that promoting and protecting forests is vital to tackling the challenges of climate change. He expressed these views while inaugurating the 2025 Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign by planting a sapling at Koh Meherdar on Wednesday.

The ceremony was organized by the Balochistan Department of Forests and Wildlife. Justice Iqbal Ahmed Kasi, Justice Muhammad Amir Nawaz Rana, Registrar of the High Court Abdul Qayyum Lehri, Secretary Forests and Wildlife Abdul Fatah Bhangar, Director General Forests and Wildlife Niaz Kakar, and other

senior officials were present on the occasion.

Chief Justice Bareech emphasized the collective responsibility of all citizens to actively participate in plantation campaigns in order to ensure a clean and healthy environment for future generations.

He urged the Forest and Wildlife Department to not only expand plantation activities but also focus on the maintenance and watering of trees already planted in different areas of Quetta.

Speaking at the event, Secretary Forests and Wildlife Abdul Fatah Bhangar said that under the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the department is taking coordinated mea-

sures for the conservation and expansion of forests and wildlife in the province. He highlighted that the monsoon plantation campaign holds great importance in this regard.

Bhangar appealed to the public to actively participate in the campaign, describing tree plantation as a "national duty."

He noted that 60,000 trees have already been planted over 150 acres at Koh Meherdar, which will contribute significantly to the Clean and Green Balochistan vision.

"The dream of a clean and green Balochistan can only be achieved through joint efforts," he said, urging citizens to partner with the government in making the plantation drive a success.



QUETTA: Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court, Justice Rozi Khan Bareech inaugurating the 2025 Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign by planting a sapling at Koh Meherdar.

Terrorism devoured thousands of innocent lives, but our sacrifices will not go in vain: Umrani

CM's Adviser pays tribute on international day of remembrance for terrorism victims

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Adviser to the Chief Minister of Balochistan on Labour and Manpower, Sardar Baba Ghulam Rasool Umrani, said that terrorism has claimed thousands of innocent lives and shattered peace in the country, but the sacrifices made by the people of Pakistan will never be forgotten.

In his special message on the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, Umrani stressed that this day is a solemn reminder of the innocent souls who fell victim to the cruelty of terrorism. He said terrorism not only inflicted severe damage on national peace but also left thousands of

families in grief and suffering.

"Today, we honor the martyrs and victims who lit the candle of peace with their blood," he stated, adding that the people of Balochistan have always stood firm against terrorism. "Our brave citizens and security forces laid down their lives for the restoration of peace," he said.

Umrani further emphasized the collective responsibility of society to stand by the families of victims and to heal their wounds. He called for unity to root out the menace of terrorism once and for all, ensuring a peaceful, prosperous, and secure Pakistan for future generations.

BFA cracks down on illegal food units

"No compromise on public health"

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) has launched a large-scale crackdown against substandard and hazardous food production units in the provincial capital, sealing several illegal businesses during inspections on Sarki Road and Airport Road.

According to officials, an illegal vinegar manufacturing unit was uncovered on Airport Road, where unregistered and unhygienic vinegar was being produced and supplied. The facility was found to have extremely poor cleanliness standards, and workers were observed violating basic hygiene practices.

On Sarki Road, the BFA sealed an illegal water plant engaged in bottling and supplying contaminated water. Inspectors discovered misleading labels,

counterfeit stickers of unregistered brands, and unhygienic storage tanks filled with fungus and filth. The plant lacked any proper drainage or waste management system, while bottles were being filled through open methods without laboratory reports or legal certification.

Director General of BFA, Waqar Khurshid Alam, said the authority is fully committed to ensuring safe and healthy food for the public. He warned that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in the production and sale of substandard or illegal food items.

"There will be no compromise on public health," DG Alam declared, reiterating the BFA's resolve to protect citizens from harmful and unsafe food practices.

Balochistan expands public transport with 21 new buses for Quetta and Turbat

Five "Pink Buses" to be reserved exclusively for women in Quetta

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Government of Balochistan has taken another major step toward providing citizens with modern and dignified travel facilities. Secretary Transport

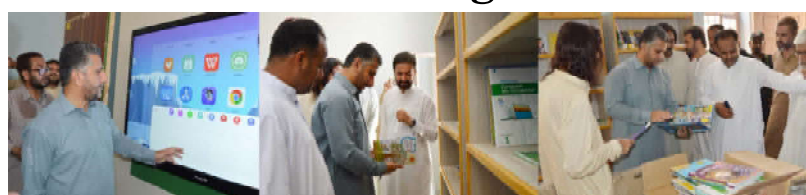
Balochistan, Muhammad Hayat Kakar, announced that following the success of the Green Bus Project, additional state-of-the-art buses have been procured. Under the special directives of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, a total of 21 new buses will be introduced — 17 for Quetta and 4 for Turbat. Of these, five "Pink Buses" will be dedicated exclusively for women in Quetta, operat-

ing on fixed schedules, while the remaining 12 Green Buses will run across various city routes.

All buses have completed inspection and shipment formalities and will soon be operational on the roads of Quetta and Turbat. The project aims not only to provide comfortable, safe, and respectable travel but also to generate new employment opportunities.

According to the Transport Secretary, currently around 8,000–9,000 passengers use the city's bus service daily. With the addition of the new fleet, this number is expected to rise to 40,000–50,000 passengers per day.

Modern IT lab inaugurated at Sibi



By Abbas Chashti

SIBI: Deputy Commissioner Sibi, Major (R) Ilyas Kabazai, inaugurated new facilities at Government Boys Model High School Sibi under the World Bank's Spire Project. The facilities include a modern IT lab, a three-room block, veranda,

and a 6kva solar system. The IT lab has been equipped with an 80-inch LED smart board, new computers, and updated software. Books were also provided to the school.

Speaking at the ceremony, DC Kabazai said education is the key to

progress and emphasized that providing modern facilities in schools is a top priority. He added that the district administration is committed to equipping Sibi's schools with solar systems, smart classrooms, and libraries to meet modern needs.

Quetta faces alarming water shortage, urgent measures needed: Kakar

Meeting reviews immediate and long-term solutions to tackle crisis

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Commissioner Quetta Division, Shahzeb Khan Kakar, has warned that the water shortage in Quetta has reached a dangerous level and requires urgent remedial measures. He stressed the need for a comprehensive water policy to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to citizens and to curb its unnecessary use.

Presiding over an important meeting on Quetta's water crisis, Kakar reviewed both immediate and long-term strategies. The meeting was attended by the Chief Engineer of WASA, representatives of the Irrigation Department, and PRC officials.

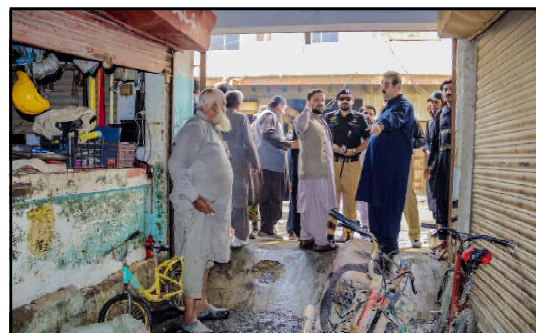
Officials informed the meeting that groundwater levels in Quetta have dropped to alarming depths, while wastage and excessive use have further worsened the problem. Decisions were taken to immediately cut off illegal and multiple water connections, enforce the use of

treated water at car-wash stations, livestock farms, leather and marble factories, and bring private water supply businesses under strict regulation and monitoring.

The commissioner emphasized the introduction of water metering, revival of traditional Karez systems, installation of rooftop rainwater harvesting systems in government buildings, sealing of illegal tube wells, and establishment of recharge points to restore groundwater levels.

He also called for awareness campaigns to encourage citizens to value water and use it responsibly. Strict action will be taken against illegal boring and those responsible for water wastage, while WASA has been directed to immediately repair damaged pipelines in affected areas.

"Water is life, and its survival depends on collective responsibility. We must all play our part to save it," Commissioner Kakar concluded.



HUB: Balochistan Minister for Agriculture Mir Ali Hassan Zehri inspects Hub rain affected areas.

PTI Balochistan leader congratulates Achakzai on becoming Opposition Leader

Calls appointment a victory for democracy and PTI's principled struggle

QUETTA (ANN) — Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Balochistan Senior Vice President and tribal elder Syed Sadiq Agha has congratulated Mehmoond Khan Achakzai on being appointed as Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly.

In his statement, Agha described the position as a "major national responsibility" and said Achakzai's elevation to the role is a positive development not only for Balochistan but for the entire country. He termed the appointment a reflection of PTI's stance and the sacrifices made by its workers in the struggle for genuine democracy.

"PTI has always pursued principled politics and

sacrificed for the people's right to real democracy. Today's success is part of that ongoing struggle," Agha remarked. He added that the people of Balochistan have consistently sacrificed for democratic stability and national progress, and now their voice will be heard more effectively in parliament.

Expressing hope, Sadiq Agha said Achakzai would strengthen opposition unity and highlight people's issues in the assembly with full force. He reiterated that PTI's leadership and workers remain in the vanguard of this struggle, and time would prove that the party alone can put Pakistan on the path of true progress and stability.



Provincial Parliamentary S&GD Abdul Hameed Badini listening to the problem people.

SSP Traffic says 90% of crimes in Quetta committed using motorbikes

Crackdown launched against unregistered and numberless motorcycles; over 300 seized in single checkpoint operation

QUETTA (ANN): In a joint press conference, SSP Operations Quetta Muhammad Baloch and SSP Traffic Dr. Sami Malik revealed that nearly 90 percent of criminal activities in Quetta are carried out using motorcycles. To curb the rising crime rate, police have launched a large-scale crackdown on unregistered and numberless motorbikes across the city.

During the operation, more than 300 motorcycles without number plates were seized at just one checkpoint, highlighting the magnitude of the issue. SSP Muhammad Baloch warned that no citizen would be allowed to drive an unregistered motorcycle in the future. Owners have been instructed to register their bikes either under their own name or that of a close relative. Those with purchase vouchers have been

given 15 days to complete registration.

The crackdown is being carried out in collaboration with the Excise Department, dealerships, and motorcycle owners to ensure a streamlined registration process. Over the past month alone, police imposed fines worth Rs7.8 million for traffic violations and took action against more than 6,000 motorcycles.

SSP Operations further directed citizens to display both front and rear number plates and submit vehicle documents to police stations within four hours if stopped. Failure to comply would result in strict legal action against owners.

SSP Traffic Dr. Sami Malik urged the public to cooperate with law enforcement, follow traffic rules, and adopt safety measures, including wearing helmets.



QUETTA: PIA's District Manager Lodhi Muhammad Sadiq meeting with Speaker of Balochistan Provincial Assembly, Captain (retired) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai.

Speaker urges PIA to restore daily domestic flights, start Umrah flights from Quetta

QUETTA (ANN): Speaker of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly, Captain @ Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai, has voiced serious concern over the inadequate number of flights from Quetta to major cities in Pakistan. He has called on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to urgently restore daily flight operations to Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad to alleviate the travel difficulties faced by the people of Balochistan.

The Speaker made these remarks during a meeting with PIA's District Manager

Lodhi Muhammad Sadiq at the Balochistan Assembly Secretariat in Quetta.

Highlighting the gravity of the issue, Speaker Achakzai said, "The unavailability and irregularity of flights from Quetta have become a serious problem for the public. Citizens are forced to endure unnecessary delays and face diffi-

culties in accessing other parts of the country. This situation is unacceptable and needs to be addressed on a priority basis."

In addition to the demand for daily domestic flights, the Speaker also emphasized the urgent need to resume Umrah flights from Quetta to Jeddah. He proposed that at least three weekly flights should be reinstated to cater to the spiritual and travel needs of pilgrims from across Balochistan. "Pilgrims should not have to travel to other cities just to catch a flight for Umrah. Quetta deserves its own direct access to such international religious routes, as was available previously," the Speaker asserted.

Responding to the concerns, PIA's District Manager Lodhi Muhammad Sadiq acknowledged the issues and assured the Speaker that the airline is aware of the public grievances.



GWADAR: MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch presides over meeting regarding progress and challenges of the New Town Housing Scheme.

Gwadar's new town housing scheme to receive major uplift: Hidayat

GWADAR (6 AM Report): A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch to review the progress and challenges of the New Town Housing Scheme. The meeting, attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Dr. Abdul Shakoor, provided a comprehensive briefing on the scheme's current status and public concerns.

Dr. Shakoor informed the MPA that the New Town Housing Scheme was launched in 1985 by the Local Government Department under the Government of Balochistan and later brought under the supervision of the district administration for improved oversight and implementation.

The scheme includes not only residential plots but also a wide range of civic infrastructure such as mosques, parks, a stadium, community center, hostel, schools, government offices, water tanks, a municipal hall, Eidgah, a desalina-

tion plant for clean drinking water, and other public amenities.

The briefing revealed that allottees currently owe the government approximately Rs. 800 million in dues. Officials emphasized that this is a government-backed scheme, not a private one, and urged all line departments to fulfill their roles in ensuring the delivery of basic services to citizens. It was also assured that 100% of the scheme's records are safe and intact.

Additionally, the meeting highlighted that the scheme is contributing to local development through the Endowment Fund, which has been used to appoint teachers in various educational institutions in Gwadar. Furthermore, it supports the provision of free ambulance services and assists Gwadar's Jewani Inter College.

Concluding the session, MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch announced that several development projects related to education, healthcare, electricity, water,

PkMAP launches relief campaign for rain and flood victims in KPK

QUETTA (PR): The Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by heavy rains, flash floods, cloudbursts, and landslides in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In a statement issued from the party's provincial secretariat, the party extended solidarity with the affected communities.

On the instructions of PkMAP Chairman and head of the Tehreek Tahaffuz-e-Aain-e-Pakistan, Mehmoond Khan Achakzai, relief camps have been established in all southern Pashtun districts starting August 22. These camps will collect cash donations and essential food supplies, which will be delivered directly to the affected people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

District organizations in Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Chaman, Killa Saifullah, Ziarat, Harnai, Zhob, Sherani, Duki, Sibi, and Barkhan have been directed to mobilize public support through announcements, pamphlets, and local outreach.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Mr. Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee & Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PM inaugurates facilitation center as one-stop solution to investors, entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday inaugurated the first-ever Business Facilitation Center (BFC) here with a vision to promote ease of doing business and attract investment in Pakistan by providing a one-stop solution to investors and entrepreneurs.

Established by the Board of Investment, the BFC will facilitate the business community by providing a wide range of services, including guidance on regulatory requirements and facilitating business registration, licensing, and permits.

It will serve as a one-stop service, reducing hurdles and facilitating efficient interaction between businesses and government entities. The prime minister, who was briefed on the center's functioning, including the investors' guidance, application for special economic zones, licensing and

payments procedures with drastically reduced timelines, also unveiled the plaque of the project, vowing to replicate it across the country if it fulfills the desired objectives.

He thanked the Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Secretary BOI, and their team for establishing the country's first-ever facilitation center and particularly for recruiting a highly talented and competent workforce who were engaged in dealing with customers as the prime minister spoke to the gathering.

The prime minister urged all the relevant departments to efficiently run the center to make it a success by facilitating and guiding the investors or people from other sectors, just like other countries.

"Otherwise, this will

be nothing more than brick and mortar. That is not my vision... We should welcome customers with a smiling face combined with genuine support without any delay, not even for a second," he advised.

Prime Minister Shehbaz called for making the facilitation center attractive and popular in other countries and establishing it as a model, paving the way for its replication in other parts of the country. In his remarks, BOI Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh called the establishment of the center a breakthrough in investment facilitation. He said that earlier, the investors had to visit various departments to accomplish the required procedures for setting up their businesses; however, the BFC will reduce this hassle, besides remarkably reducing the timelines.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates the Business Facilitation Centre.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan to further cement security, defense ties

RAWALPINDI (Online): General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), while on an official visit to Uzbekistan, called on H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Major General S h u k h r a t Kholmukhamedov, Minister of Defence, and Lieutenant General Victor Makhmudov, Secretary National Security Council.

The discussions covered evolving international and regional geo-political and security environment, with emphasis on matters of mutual interest.



Balochistan's TEVTA MD visits Saudi Arabia to expand job opportunities for youth

QUETTA (APP): Tariq Javed Mengal, Managing Director, Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (BTEVTA), who is on an official visit to Saudi Arabia held high-level discussions with executives from leading Saudi companies, aiming to secure job placements for skilled young professionals from Balochistan.

The meetings focused on expanding opportunities under the Chief Minister's Youth Skill Development and Overseas Employment Program.

Mengal also met with the first cohort of Baloch youth already employed in Saudi Arabia through the initiative. He listened to their concerns and pledged swift action to resolve any challenges they faced.

The workers expressed deep appreciation for Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, whose visionary program has enabled them to earn

competitive wages abroad. They emphasized that the initiative not only improves their personal livelihoods but also contributes to Balochistan's economy through foreign remittances.

Highlighting the groundbreaking nature of the program, Mengal remarked, "For the first time globally, a government is covering all expenses to send youth abroad for employment. It's a matter of immense pride that our youth are contributing to the construction of the iconic NEOM City."

He further announced that negotiations with Saudi firms had yielded promising results, and more Baloch youth would soon be placed in reputable companies across the Kingdom. Mengal credited this progress to the Chief Minister's Mir Sarfraz Bugti steadfast commitment to empowering the province's next generation.

'Ashra Rahmatul-lil-Alameen' to be observed from 1st to 12th Rabi-ul-Awal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has announced that Ashra Rahmatul-lil-Alameen will be observed across the country from 1st to 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal with devotion and reverence, featuring national and provincial-level programs in connection with the 1,500 birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf chaired an inter-provincial meeting on Thursday where key decisions were taken to mark the occasion. The meeting was attended by Federal Secretary Religious Affairs Dr. Syed Atta-ur-Rehman, Additional Secretary Dr. Sajid Mahmood Chauhan, provincial Auqaf secretaries, Minister of Auqaf AJK Hafiz Muhammad Ahmad Raza Qadri, Parliamentary Secretary Balochistan Shahnaz Umrani, and other senior officials.

Highlighting the importance of the commemorations, Sardar Yousaf said the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony will organize the 50th International Seerat-un-Nabi Conference in Islamabad, with the theme:

CTD sub inspector martyred in Pishin gun attack

PISHIN (UNA): In a tragic incident at Bacha Khan Chowk, unidentified armed assailants on a motorcycle opened fire on Sub-Inspector Inayatullah of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), martyring him on the spot.

The attackers fled immediately after the shooting, spreading fear and panic in the area. Law enforcement agencies swiftly cordoned off the scene and began collecting evidence.

The body of the martyred officer was shifted to Quetta for post-mortem. Meanwhile, a search operation has been launched to apprehend the culprits.

SC approves bail pleas of IK in May 9 related 8 cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has approved bail pleas of Imran Khan in May 9 related 8 cases.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi and comprising Justice Shafi Siddiqui and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi announced short order after hearing the bail pleas Thursday.

CJP remarked the respondents should understand that court will not allow them to talk on central facts of the case. Merits have to be settled by the trial court itself.

The bench hearing the appeal pleas of Imran Khan was changed.

Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi was included in the bench in place of Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb.

Counsel for the prosecution Zulfiqar Naqvi presented the arguments.

At the inception of hearing CJP inquired from prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi there are two questions of court from you.

The CJP said there are two questions of court from both of you.

You may have read Lahore High Court (LHC) decision. First question is can final finding be given in bail related case. The second question is the SC granted bail to the accused on treason case in the past. Will the principle of continuity apply to this case.

The prosecutor while giving arguments in the court said court's observation in bail case is of interim

nature always. Court's observation makes no difference on trial of the case. SC maintained in different decisions from 1996 to 2024 the observations given in bail are of temporary nature.

The CJP remarked the respondents should understand that they will not be allowed to talk on central facts of case. The CJP remarked SC granted bail in one case of May 9 despite accusations of treason. Tell us about this decision.

Special prosecutor told the court SC granted bail to 3 accused in the conspiracy related case. The accused were not nominated in FIR in one case of treason.

The court announced interval during the hearing of the case till 11.30 a.m.

After interval Justice Shafi Siddiqui inquired from prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi were the charges leveled against Ejaz Chaudhry related to presence on occasion and treason.

Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi inquired was Ejaz Chaudhry present on the occasion on May 9.

Prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi said he cannot give a clear reply regarding presence of Ejaz Chaudhry on the occasion. Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi said you are prosecutor and you don't know the basic matter. The CJP Yahya Afridi inquired what are the evidence against Imran Khan.

Prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi said statements of 3 witnesses have been presented as evidence. Imran Khan has a central role in all cases.

Raheela Durrani affirms

GoB commitment to cooperate with the NCRC in ensuring quality education for children

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Education Minister Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani affirmed the Government of Balochistan's commitment to fully cooperate with the NCRC in ensuring equal opportunities and quality education for children from minority backgrounds. She emphasized that protecting children's rights remains a key priority for the provincial government, particularly in a disadvantaged province like Balochistan.

The National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) formally launched its 2024 provincial-level report in Quetta titled "The Situation Analysis on Children from Minority Religions in Pakistan". The event was attended by Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, and Provincial Advisor on Minority Affairs, Mr. Sanjay Kumar, as chief guests.

The launch ceremony brought together government officials, police representatives, members of the legal fraternity, leaders of minority communities, UN agencies including UNICEF, social activists and citizens from different walks of life. On this occasion, the contributions of Commission Member Advocate Abdul Hai and the provincial team were also appreciated.

Speakers at the event highlighted that children in Pakistan face numerous challenges, with those belonging to minority religions being among the most vulnerable. Key issues identified included barriers to education, child marriage, child labor, malnutrition, and social discrimination. They stressed the urgent need for both state-led and community-driven initiatives to ensure equal opportunities and protection for minority children.

Addressing the gathering, Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Mr. Sanjay Kumar said the launch of this report was a timely and commendable step, as it not only reflects the ground realities faced by minority children but also guides policymakers toward effective future strategies. He added that without ensuring equal access to education, healthcare, and protection for children from minority communities, Pakistan cannot truly achieve sustainable progress.

During the ceremony, key findings from NCRC's recently published State of Pakistan's Children 2024, report were also shared.

Sanjrani meets Oman envoy to boost bilateral ties



ISLAMABAD: Former Chairman of the Senate, Sadiq Sanjrani, met here with Oman's Ambassador, Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Alkharusi.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed bilateral mutual matters. They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the historic and brotherly ties between the brotherly Islamic countries.

Sadiq Sanjrani also expressed gratitude for Oman's support for Pakistan's bid for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Pakistan, China reaffirm 'Iron Brotherhood' as Zardari meets Wang Yi

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday reaffirmed that Pakistan and China are iron brothers, time tested friends and all-weather strategic partners and friendship with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, which enjoys unanimous public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan. The President said this in a meeting with Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, Wang Yi, here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Vice Foreign Minister of China, Sun Weidong and Ambassador of China, Jiang Zaidong were also present during the meeting, a Presidency's news release said. The President thanked China for its consistent support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, national development, and its principled and just stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The President also conveyed his condolences on the loss of precious lives in the recent floods in Beijing and Gansu province of China. The President recalled his visit to China earlier this year, during which he had successful meetings with President, Xi Jinping and

senior leadership of China. "The visit underscored my confidence in the steadfastness of the Pakistan-China iron brotherhood," he added.

The President mentioned that during his previous tenure, he visited

CPEC Highlighted as Cornerstone of Economic Integration and Peace in the Region

China 14 times to gain deeper understanding of the development and progress of the country which proved to be a precursor to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said that 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China and Pakistan is planning to celebrate this important milestone in a befitting manner. He said both the countries can use this opportunity to pass on the finest traditions of Pakistan China friendship to our younger generations.

The President regarded CPEC, which is part of President Xi's flagship Belt and Road Initiative, as having immense strategic significance for both Paki-

stan and China. He said CPEC is an important component to realize our joint vision of enhanced regional connectivity, economic integration, and a peaceful neighborhood.

Expressing his views, Mr. Wang Yi said that friendship between China and Pakistan has lasted for generations and is based on good faith, credibility and strong all-weather strategic partnership.

He said President Xi Jinping's vision is that Pakistan and China have a shared future and work should be done to bring the two peoples closer to each other. He said China acknowledges Pakistan's support to China at key junctures.

Matters relating to bilateral cooperation and regional security also came under discussion.

Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister; Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives; Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control; Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman PPP; Hina Rabbani Khar, MNA; Spokesperson to President, Murtaza Solangi; Secretary Foreign Affairs and Ambassador of Pakistan to China were also present during the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, with participants at the closing ceremony of the URAAN Summer Scholars Program and the YPDC Fellowship, attended by youth from across Pakistan and overseas.

PM receives solidarity letter from UK PM amid monsoon devastation

ISLAMABAD (APP): British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer on Thursday expressed deep condolences and solidarity with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the people of Pakistan following the recent monsoon rains and ensuing floods that have caused significant loss of life and property across the country.

In his letter addressed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the British Prime Minister conveyed his sorrow over the human and financial losses, stating: "I extend my heartfelt condolences to you and the people of Pakistan on the tragic loss of lives caused by the recent monsoon-related disasters."

New moon of Rabi ul Awwal expected Aug 24

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has announced that the new moon of Rabi ul Awwal, 1447 AH, is expected to be born on August 23, 2025 at 11:06 PST.

According to SUPARCO, at the time of sunset on August 24, the moon will be around 32 hours and 13 minutes old.

The duration between sunset and moonset is expected to be about 45 minutes along Pakistan's coastal areas. Based on these astronomical parameters, there are strong chances of the new moon being sighted on the evening of August 24, subject to clear weather conditions. Consequently, the first day of Rabi ul Awwal is likely to fall on August 25, 2025.

Elite Force cop martyred in Mir Ali attack

PESHAWAR (APP): An Elite Force official was martyred in a terrorist attack in Mir Ali, North Waziristan. Police informed Thursday, the martyred cop was identified as Mohammad Shoaib, a resident of Dosli. He was targeted and killed by terrorists while performing his duty in Mir Ali.

One million young people engaged to form URAAN Youth Force: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said that under the initiative of Youth ki URAAN, one million young people across the country are being engaged to form the URAAN Youth Force, a network of social entrepreneurs dedicated to achieving national goals.

Addressed the closing ceremony of the URAAN Summer Scholars Program and the Young Parliamentarian Development Council (YPDC) Fellowship, the minister said that the URAAN Pakistan is a practical road map aimed at transforming the economy on sustainable and strong

foundations. The minister underscored that the program's core objective is to connect the country's youth with the national transformation agenda and to channel their energy toward constructive and positive thinking, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives.

The ceremony brought together young scholars, including overseas participants of the Mitti ki Pukar Summer Scholars Program, and representatives of 131 YPDC chapters from across Pakistan.

The minister stressed that knowledge alone is not enough, but its true test lies in its application.



KARACHI: A view of smoke rise in a firecracker warehouse on MA Jinnah road after a powerful explosion, at least 33 people were injured. A massive fire that engulfed nearby buildings and vehicles.

Ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Belgium call on Minister for Defence Production

RAWALPINDI (APP): Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and Ambassador of Kingdom of Belgium Charles Idesbald separately called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj here Thursday.

The Minister welcomed the ambassador of Azerbaijan and highly appreciated the brotherly feelings of Azerbaijan Government for Pakistan on all international forums, said a press release.

Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj appreciated existing defense cooperation between the two countries and desired to expand it further.

He emphasized that Pakistan and Azerbaijan have deep roots in common faith, cultural affinities, and shared traditions. Minister proposed more frequent

exchange of visits to each other's institutions to explore new areas of mutual cooperation.

Meanwhile during meeting with Mr. Charles Idesbald, Ambassador of Kingdom of Belgium the Minister expressed that relations between the two countries are growing with the passage of time and bilateral relations are being enhanced in all fields.

As regards to our cooperation in business sector, it is expanding gradually and expected to grow manifolds. The visiting dignitaries thanked the honorable Minister for sparing time and showed their government's commitment to continue working with the government of Pakistan in all domains. Both the envoys assured for their efforts to fully cooperate with Pakistan to further expand bilateral ties.