

President forms 11th NFC to reshape fiscal future

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has constituted the 11th National Finance Commission under Article 160 of the Constitution.

To this respect a notification has been shared on X by Advisor to Finance Minister, Khurram Schehzad.

The Federal Minister for Finance will serve as the chair of the commission, with all four provincial finance ministers and nominated experts as its members.

The NFC will be responsible for recommending the distribution of federal revenues, allocation of grants, borrowing powers, and cost-sharing mechanisms for national development projects.

Pakistan opens to broad dialogue with India on key issues: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office Spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan has said Pakistan is ready for a comprehensive and composite dialogue with India to address all outstanding issues, including terrorism.

He made these remarks while responding to various questions during his weekly media briefing in Islamabad on Friday.

The Spokesperson emphasized that pursuing a comprehensive and composite dialogue has long been Pakistan's consistent position. He clarified that Pakistan has no hesitation in discussing the issue of terrorism with India, asserting that Pakistan possesses credible and irrefutable evidence of India's involvement in fomenting terrorism within its borders. Shafqat Ali Khan remarked that any effort by friendly countries aimed at facilitating such dialogue between Pakistan and India will be welcomed. Commenting on India's arms buildup, he expressed concern that India's accumulation and procurement of weapons pose a serious threat to regional stability and Pakistan's security. He criticized the international community for turning a blind eye to India's aggressive pursuit of military capabilities that far exceed its legitimate security needs, warning that this trend remains a source of regional instability. He, however, affirmed that Pakistan has the capability to respond effectively and defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Passenger coach-pick up collision claims 9 lives

LASBELLA (Online): As many as 9 passengers have been killed and 2 have been injured in clash between passenger coach and two pick up in district Lasbella Balochistan.

As per sources the passenger coach and two pick up vehicles collided near Faqira stop of Othal area in district Lasbella Balochistan.

9 passengers lost their lives in the accident and 2 people have sustained injuries. One police man is also included among those killed in the accident.

As per media reports, bodies and injured were shifted to Civil Hospital Othal Bella soon after the accident. According to sources Passenger coach was on its way from Panjgur to Karachi while both the pick up vehicles were going to Khuzdar from Karachi. The accident took place due to overspeeding.

Those killed and injured have been identified as Shakoor Ahmad, Shakil Ahmad, Abdul Ghafoor, Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Hanif Umeed, Ali Muhammad, Saeed Muhammad, Yunus Abdullah, Muhammad Anas Abdullah and Muhammad Yasin.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi in a meeting with Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

UK envoy, CM Bugti forge new era of climate action and youth reforms

ISLAMABAD (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti met with British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott in Islamabad to discuss a wide range of issues including bilateral cooperation, climate change impacts, governance reforms, security, and development strategies for the province.

During the meeting, CM Bugti highlighted climate change as an unprecedented challenge and announced that Balochistan has established its first-ever "Climate Fund" to implement effective measures for disaster management and environmental protection. He emphasized that the provincial government is committed to improving governance and ensuring transparency. Last fiscal year alone, the government saved 14 billion rupees from the non-development budget through prudent financial management.

The chief minister also shared details of ongoing reforms in education and health sectors. Under the Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program, students across Balochistan, including children of civilian martyrs,

Skills Development Program, which aims to train 30,000 young people and facilitate overseas employment opportunities for them. British High Commissioner Jane Marriott

lauded the Balochistan government's efforts for good governance, social sector reforms, and youth empowerment. She commended the province's initiatives in education, health, and climate resilience. Both sides also discussed enhancing cooperation in multiple sectors, including professional training support to CTD Police to strengthen law enforcement capabilities. The meeting reflected a strong commitment by both parties to deepen collaboration in climate action, security, human capital development, paving the way for Balochistan's sustainable progress.

transgender persons, minorities, and other marginalized groups, are being provided access to quality education. Additionally, in collaboration with Akhuwat Foundation, the government is introducing an interest-free loan scheme to economically empower the youth. Bugti revealed that 16,000 contractual teachers have been recruited purely on merit and comprehensive reforms in education and health departments are underway to enhance public access to essential services. For the first time in Balochistan's history, a provincial youth policy has been launched along with the CM Youth



QUETTA: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

ADB approves financing for transformative Reko Diq copper mining project

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a financing package for Pakistan's Reko Diq copper-gold mine, aiming to meet rising global demand for critical minerals while driving economic transformation and poverty reduction in the country.

"Reko Diq will help the critical minerals supply chain, while advancing the clean energy transition and driving digital innovation across the region and beyond," said ADB President Masato Kanda, according to ADB press release received here Friday.

"ADB's support is also a game-changer for Pakistan, creating quality jobs and underpinning the nation's transition toward a more resilient and diversified economy," Kanda said. ADB is one of several agencies funding the first phase of Reko Diq, with an innovative financing package that will help unlock greater private capital by derisking this investment. ADB's contribution consists of up to \$300 million in senior loans to the Reko Diq Mining Company Private Limited (RDMC), which owns the mine, and a \$110 million partial credit guarantee to cover the equity component of the Government of Balochistan. Financing for the project will be the largest foreign direct investment in Pakistan's history.

New Pakistan emerges after Marka-e-Haq victory, nation stands resolute: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar on Friday said the nation stood as a resolute force in the face of Indian aggression, declaring that a "new Pakistan" has emerged on the global map through its triumph in the Marka-e-Haq.

Speaking at an event organized by the Council of Newspapers Editors (CPNE), Tarar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had spotlighted the Pahalgam incident during his address at Kakul, with his call for an investigation receiving widespread international support. In response to Indian hostilities, the Prime Minister convened the National Security Council, made key decisions—particularly on the water issue—and the armed forces fully implemented those directives.

Tarar praised Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for crafting a successful war strategy, lauded Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu and his Shaheens for their historic aerial defense, and commended Admiral Naveed Ashraf and the Pakistan Navy for their readiness to revive the legacy of "Operation Dwarka" if needed. He noted that while some had written off Pakistan, divine grace elevated the nation's dignity and honor. Criticizing Indian media, Tarar said it had become a subject of global ridicule for spreading blatant falsehoods, including fabricated claims of attacks on Karachi and Lahore ports. He emphasized that Pakistan's strategic preparedness, led by Field Marshal Munir, ensured a swift and decisive response to Indian provocations.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, calls on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, in federal capital.

Chinese FM, COAS meet on regional security, counter-terrorism

RAWALPINDI (APP): Foreign Minister of China, Mr. Wang Yi, among other commitments also met Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ at Islamabad. Discussions focused on regional security, counter-terrorism, and matters of mutual interest, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here.

Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen the all-weather strategic partnership and enhance coordination at regional and international forums.

Wang Yi reiterated China's steadfast support for Pakistan's sovereignty and development. The COAS expressed gratitude for China's consistent support. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to advance peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Quarter Master General Bangladesh Army calls on CJCS Gen Sahir

RAWALPINDI (APP): Quarter Master General, Bangladesh Army Lieutenant General Md Faizur Rahman called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M) here Friday at Joint Staff Headquarters.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the prevailing security environment in the region and laid emphasis on shared resolve for enhancing existing cooperation in defence and security domain, said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The Chairman JCSC highlighted the rising trajectory of bilateral relations between both the countries and identified new avenues of defence cooperation.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in fight against terrorism.

Army continues relief operation in flood-hit areas of KP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Army is continuing relief operation in flood-hit areas of Buner, Swat, Shangla and Swabi.

Troops of Corps of Engineers are engaged in clearing debris and opening roads. Rations and other essential supplies are being delivered via Pakistan Army helicopters.

People from flood-affected areas are being relocated to safer places. The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team of the Corps of Engineers is actively involved in locating injured individuals and recovering bodies from the debris.

Pakistan Army's medical teams are providing free treatment to patients in the affected areas.

Due to the efforts of Pakistan Army, road from Qadir Nagar to Bhatai Dara in Buner has been reopened.

Pakistan's economy is stabilizing and moving towards growth: PM

Directs protection of employees' rights; Cabinet approves dissolution of Utility Stores Corporation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the quarters concerned that the dissolution process of the Utility Stores Corporation should be carried out transparently while ensuring full protection of employees' rights as the Cabinet unanimously approved the dissolution of the Utility Stores Corporation, following the suspension of its operations nationwide on July 31.

The Prime Minister presided over a meeting of the federal cabinet, which began with a special prayer for those who lost their lives in the recent rains and floods across the country, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

He expressed gratitude to cabinet members

who personally visited flood-hit areas to monitor rescue and relief operations.

The Prime Minister emphasized that reducing farmers' production costs was vital to improving agricultural output and announced the formation of a high-level committee comprising Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervez Malik, Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, Adviser Muhammad Ali, and Special Assistant on Industry Haroon Akhtar to work on fertilizer pricing and related issues.

To further accelerate industrial growth, the cabinet gave in-principle approval to amend the Special Economic Zones Act, 2012.

Prime Minister Shehbaz stressed that providing a business and investor-friendly environment was crucial for industrial development, adding that the expansion of industries would enhance exports and create new jobs.

"With the grace of Almighty Allah, Pakistan's economy is stabilizing and moving towards growth," the Prime Minister remarked.

The meeting also approved the presentation of the Annual Report of the National Economic Council for fiscal year 2023-24 before Parliament, and endorsed decisions taken by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on August 19 and the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases (CCLC) on August 18.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting.

Primary education is backbone of national progress: Governor

Mandokhail emphasizes urgent international support to uplift education in scattered, underserved communities across Balochistan

QUETTA (6 AM Report) : Governor of Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, has highlighted the critical importance of primary education in shaping the educational and economic future of the province. Speaking at a high-profile educational program held at BUTEMS University — organized in collaboration with UNICEF and the Government of Norway — the Governor called for focused attention on early education and appealed to the international community for strategic support.

"Primary education is the backbone of any country's educational system. It lays the foundation for all future academic success," said Governor Mandokhail while addressing a large gathering of educators, students, and education experts. He stressed that boosting literacy from the ground up could significantly improve higher education enrollment and expand employment opportunities across the province.

The event was attended by UNICEF's Provincial Head Maryam Darwish, BUTEMS Vice-Chancellor Dr. Khalid Hafeez, University of Balochistan VC Dr. Zahoor Bazai, BUTEMS Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mairwase Khan Kasi, and Ploosha Jalalzai, along with numerous students and faculty members.

Governor Mandokhail expressed concern over the alarming state of primary education in Balochistan, revealing that nearly 2.96 million children are currently out of school, depriving a significant portion of the population of their basic right to education.

He pointed out that rural schools are severely lacking in infrastructure, clean drinking water, electricity, and sanitation, which deters parents from sending their children to school.

"Our population is small and scattered, making it incredibly difficult to deliver essential services to every doorstep," the Governor said. "To transform the vision of a literate and developed Balochistan into reality, we urgently require guidance and cooperation from developed nations and international institutions."

He urged national and global stakeholders to acknowledge that every child deserves access to quality learning opportunities. "No child in Balochistan should be left behind," he asserted. "Let us join hands to equip our children with quality education and modern skills to light the way for a brighter future."

The ceremony concluded with Governor Mandokhail distributing certificates and gifts among students.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel addressing the participants of prestigious educational program organized by UNICEF and the Norwegian Government on Primary, Middle and Technical Education in Balochistan at BUTEMS.

Banned BLA operative's associate arrested

By Naseer Shahwani

QUETTA: Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Quetta has arrested a close associate of Dr. Usman Qazi, a key figure in the banned outfit Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), a private TV channel reported on Thursday.

The suspect, identified as Mir Khan Lehri, is said to be a law graduate from the International Islamic University, Islamabad. According to intelligence sources, Lehri was serving as a prosecutor in Balochistan and allegedly involved in facilitating terrorist activities while drawing a salary from the state. Despite being part of

the government system, he reportedly remained active in anti-state operations and is believed to have played a role in multiple attacks, aiding the BLA network under the guise of official responsibilities.

CTD officials confirmed that the suspect has been taken into custody, and interrogations are underway. Preliminary investigations suggest his involvement in over a dozen incidents, though authorities have not yet released further details.

The arrest raises fresh concerns over insider threats and the infiltration of banned outfits into state institutions. Officials say more arrests may follow as the investigation deepens.

PM announces commendation certificate for Rescue 1122 spokesperson

PESHAWAR (INP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, has announced that a formal commendation certificate will be awarded to Rescue 1122 spokesperson Bilal Ahmad Faizi in recognition of his exceptional services. The announcement was made in appreciation of Bilal Ahmad Faizi's professional performance and highly effective media coordination during the recent flood and cloud-burst emergencies in the province. Throughout the crisis, he provided timely, accurate, and transparent updates to the media regarding ongoing rescue operations and relief activities.

CM Murad pledges stronger push against polio with new campaigns and rotary support

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has reaffirmed his commitment to eradicating polio in the province. He made this commitment during a significant meeting with a six-member delegation from the Rotary Foundation.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of eliminating polio, a crippling disease that poses a serious threat to children. To achieve this goal, large-scale oral polio vaccine (OPV) campaigns are scheduled for September, October, and December 2025. Notably, one of these campaigns will target children up to the age of 15. The meeting was attended by Holger Knaack, Trustee Chair of the Rotary Foundation; Michael K. McGovern, Chair of the Rotary International PolioPlus Committee; Aziz Memon, National Chair of the Pakistan PolioPlus Committee; Muhammad Faiz Kidwai, Past Rotary International Director; Shakeel Kaimkhani, District Governor of Rotary International Sindh; and Shahzad Sabir, District Governor Elect.

The Chief Minister

was assisted by his Health Minister, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, and Secretary to the Chief Minister, Raheem Shaikh. The meeting resolved to strengthen further collaborative efforts in combating polio in Sindh.

Chief Minister Shah highlighted the polio cases, with Sindh reporting 23 cases in 2024 and 6 cases thus far in 2025, including the last recorded case in Badin in July 2025.

However, he noted promising signs from Environmental Surveillance, indicating a decrease in the presence of the virus, with one-third of samples from Karachi and Hyderabad returning negative results for both June and July 2025.

Out of 21 polio cases, one in Punjab, six in Sindh, 13 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one AJK/GB. In Sindh Hyderabad division has three cases, Larkana two, Mirpurkhas has one.

To bolster polio eradication efforts, Sindh has implemented several initiatives in response to recommendations from the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) and the Technical

Advisory Group (TAG). These initiatives include the establishment of accountability measures through regular task force meetings and the mobilisation of 1,300 support teams to assist frontline workers in vaccinating hesitant households. Notably, refusal conversion committees in Karachi have succeeded in reducing vaccine refusals by 15 per cent.

The Rotary International has played a vital role in this battle against polio, contributing approximately \$ 500 million to enhance the national polio programme, establishing vital infrastructure, and organising health camps for underserved communities. Looking ahead, Chief Minister Shah announced three major oral polio vaccine (OPV) campaigns scheduled for September, October, and December 2025, alongside a campaign targeting children up to age 15. The Sindh government remains committed to eradicating polio, aiming to ensure the highest quality of campaigns and engaging rotary clubs across districts to raise community awareness and acceptance of the vaccine.



HYDERABAD: Rain-affected residents of Fatima Jinnah Colony use a makeshift boat made of wood and air-filled bags to pass through flooded streets after torrential rain in the city last night.

CM Maryam orders rescue teams amid flood alert

LAHORE (Online): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed to depute rescue teams in the affected areas immediately to cope up with the flood situation. She has directed the administration and other relevant departments to carry out advance arrangements in the districts of Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sargodha, Gujrat and Gujranwala in view of possible heavy rains. She has directed the commissioners and deputy commissioners to remain alert to deal with any untoward situation.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif asserted that implementation of the advance alerts, SOPs and instructions to be given by PDMA should be ensured under any circumstance. She directed announcements in the mosques by loudspeakers for timely evacuation of the flood affected population. She further directed to set up Clinics on Wheels and Field Hospitals for the provision of timely medical treatment and care to the

flood victims.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to provide vaccination and medical treatment facilities for livestock in the flood affected areas and further directed to give prior information to the residents of the affected areas by sending SMS messages. She directed PDMA, administration and other relevant departments to make special arrangements in the affected areas adjacent to the rivers of Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed the rescue teams, administration, police and other relevant departments to take necessary measures in the areas adjacent to the Sutlej River. She directed to ensure immediate evacuation of the population dwelling adjacent to river. She further directed to undertake preemptive measures for the timely relocation of livestock from the flood affected areas. On the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, agriculture, irrigation, health, forests, livestock.

18 killed, 1,547 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Eighteen people were killed and 1,547 others injured in 1,336 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours, according to a report, issued by the Punjab Emergency Service (PES), commonly known as Rescue-1122, here on Friday.

As many as 648 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 899 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 897 drivers, 58 underage drivers, 178 pedestrians and 490 passengers were among the victims of road crashes.

The statistics show that 258 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 301 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 97 accidents and 113 victims, and at third Multan with 78 accidents and 90 victims.

According to the data, 1,353 motorbikes, 72 auto-rickshaws, 154 motorcars, 33 vans, 12 passenger buses, 47 trucks and 150 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

Death toll in Karachi firecrackers blast rises to 5

KARACHI (INP): The death toll in the powerful explosion, which occurred in a firecrackers factory in Karachi on Thursday, rose to five as on Friday as rescue personnel recovered another dead body from under the debris of Amna Building.

Another 35 people including the owner of the factory were injured in the blast at the firecrackers godown. Rescue personnel shifted the dead to Trauma Center of Civil Hospital in Karachi.

The dead person was later identified as Shehzad Ali, aged 40.

Later, the police filed a first information report (FIR) against the owners of the godown Mohammad Hanif and Mohammad Ayub, on behalf of the government.

Police said that Mohammad Hanif is under treatment in the hospital, and Mohammad Ayub escaped from the scene.

On Thursday, a powerful blast ripped through the firecrackers warehouse on MA Jinnah Road, leading to a massive blaze and intermittent explosions in the area.

The sheer intensity of the blast also damaged nearby vehicles and shattered windows of surrounding buildings, filling the area with heavy smoke drifting towards the Lines Area.

Governor approves Motor Vehicle amendment bill

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has approved the Provincial Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill 2025 under Article 116, making it effective immediately.

According to Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, the Provincial Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill 2025 has been introduced to enhance public safety across the province.

The Provincial Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill 2025 includes strict legal action for violations of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Additional conditions have been imposed for issuing heavy vehicle driving licences. A pre-licence training course has been made mandatory for obtaining both Light Transport Vehicle (LTV) and Heavy Transport Vehicle (HTV) licences.

The Provincial Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill 2025 also introduces a demerit points system for drivers, aimed at improving road safety and compliance.

According to report published earlier, at least 546 people lost their lives in traffic accidents across Karachi during the first seven months of this year.

Rescue data further revealed that 8,136 citizens sustained injuries in various

traffic accidents during the same period. Heavy vehicles were involved in accidents that claimed the lives of 165 people.

The fatalities include 425 men, 51 women, 51 boys, and 19 girls.

Among heavy vehicles, trailers caused the highest number of fatalities, killing 62 people. Water tankers were responsible for 37 deaths, dumpers for 32, and buses for 20 fatalities, according to the statistics.

Authorities have urged stricter enforcement of traffic rules and improved road safety measures to curb the rising number of deadly accidents in the city.

At least seven dumpers were set ablaze by enraged residents following the deaths of a brother and sister in a high-speed, heavy traffic accident on Rashid Minhas Road in Karachi.

A speeding dumper ran over a motorcycle on Rashid Minhas Road in the Federal B Area, killing a 22-year-old woman, Mahmood, and her 14-year-old brother, Ahmed Raza, while leaving their father critically injured. Following the incident, angry residents set fire to seven dumpers in the area.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori signs the Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2025.

Sindh unveils scheme to give 10,000 free e-bikes to women workers

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh Workers Welfare Board has launched a scheme to distribute 10,000 free electric motorcycles to women industrial workers, provincial Labor Minister Shahid Thaheem announced Friday.

Thaheem said registration for the motorcycles has begun on the board's official website, www.wvbsindh.gov.pk. Eligible applicants include women between the ages of 20 and 45 employed in the industrial sector. A 20 per cent quota has been reserved for minorities.

He said applications will be processed through a

digital balloting system, eliminating the possibility of human interference.

Successful applicants will be given 60 days to obtain a driving license.

Thaheem described the program as a step toward empowering women, noting that women make up half of Pakistan's population. "The country cannot progress without their development," he said, adding that the scheme is designed to provide women with safe and dignified transport. The labor minister said the inclusion of minorities in the project is a recognition of their contributions and sacrifices.

Joint Steering Committee on AIP discuss development schemes in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): The first meeting of Joint Steering Committee on Accelerated Implementation Program (AIP) of merged districts was held here on Friday, with the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the chair.

Federal Ministers Ahsan Iqbal and Engineer Amir Muqam, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Mubarak Zeb, KP Chief Minister's Advisor on Finance Muzammil Aslam, Additional Chief Secretary Planning & Development KP, representatives of 11 Corps and other relevant federal and provincial officials attended the meeting.

The meeting held an in-depth discussion on development schemes under

the AIP (Accelerated Implementation Program) in the merged districts. Briefings were given by the concerned authorities on various aspects of development projects, particularly the financial situation.

It was decided in the meeting to launch a joint project to provide solar systems to households, build police infrastructure, and strengthen FATA University under the Accelerated Implementation Program (AIP).

The meeting also decided formation of a technical committee comprising federal and provincial officials along with representatives of 11 Corps to set priorities for implementation of development projects under the program.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets Rotary Foundation Trustee chair Holger Knaack in Karachi.

KP govt announces Rs15,000 food aid for flood-hit families

PESHAWAR (INP): The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has announced a food package of Rs.15, 000 for each flood affected family in various district of the province.

This was announced during a meeting held here with Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur in the chair. The meeting reviewed relief and rehabilitation activities in flood-affected districts of the province. The meeting

was attended via video link by deputy commissioners from Buner, Swat, Shangla, Mansehra, Battagram, Lower Dir, Bajaur, Swabi and Tank, along with the chief secretary and other senior officials.

Officials briefed the chief minister that 70 to 80% data of damaged properties and infrastructure had been compiled, with the remainder to be completed shortly.

TENDER NOTICE		
<p>Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPBRA GOB. The Executive Engineer-Buildings, CWPP&H Department District Kharaan invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2% for each work</p>		
S.No	Name of Work/s	E/CoSt
1	PROVISION OF MISSING FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BOYS DEGREE COLLEGE KHARAN (PSDP NO: 2381 22025.1795) 2025-26 TSE-252608821263	49,497,185
2	PROVISION OF MISSING FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GIRLS DEGREE COLLEGE KHARAN (PSDP NO: 2383 22025.1796) (2025-26) TSE-252608821473	49,497,185

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 34,648,029 PKR Amount in 5 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), EE1(i) (Solar) Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, 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 10 September, 2025 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Office of The Executive Engineer-Buildings, CWPP&H Department District Kharaan Phone no: 0847510875 Email eebuildingskharaan@gmail.com

Executive Engineer-Buildings
CWPP&H Department
Kharaan
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NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF DATE
This office tender published in daily newspapers vide PRQ No.472/08-8-2025 under TSE-252608804963 regarding the development work "Construction of Automated Toll Booths for Lakhpass Toll plaza Quetta. PSDP No. 1356 (2025.0610)" where the date of opening of technical bid of the said tender was fixed 25-08-2025 which is hereby extended upto 01-09-2025 due to some unavoidable circumstances. Other terms and conditions shall remain enforce as published before.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROADS)
SARIAB QUETTA.
PRQ No.768/22-8-2025
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PU, Bahria University ink MoU

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University and Bahria University Islamabad signed a memorandum of understanding on Friday at the PU VC's office to enhance academic and research collaboration.

PU VC Prof Dr Muhammad Ali, Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral (ret'd) Asif Khaliq, PU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Director External Linkages Prof Dr Yaamina Salman and others were present.

According to MoU, both universities will organise joint research, supervise the student's research, seminars, conferences, workshops etc. This collaboration marks a significant step in fostering academic engagement and expanding opportunities for students and faculty members of both institutions.

PU VC Prof Dr Muhammad Ali emphasised the importance of academic cooperation between the universities.

Baba Bulleh Shah Urs celebrations begin

KASUR (INP): The Baba Bulleh Shah Urs three day celebrations started here on Friday.

The official sources said the Urs inaugural ceremony was attended by Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Finance and Revenue, Mian Saad Wasim Sheikh, MNA, Haji Naem Safdar Ansari, Deputy Commissioner, Kasur, Imran Ali and officials of other concerned departments.

The three-day event takes place in Kasur and involves various devotional activities, the exhibition of the saint's relics and the recitations of his poetry, attracting devotees from across the country.

ANF recovers 12 kg of drugs worth Rs 1.2m

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting 3 operations across the country, recovered as many as 12 kilograms of drugs worth more than Rs 1.2 million and arrested 3 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Friday. He informed that 10 kg of hashish was recovered from 2 accused near Sohrah Goth Bus Terminal, Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Children are donating grocery and different others things at the Aid collection camp for the affected of Buner flood, in Federal Capital.

Daily 6AM, Quetta
Saturday August 23, 2025

Lingering issue

A Long-Running controversy over the legitimacy of the 26th Amendment is back in the spotlight. A letter, authored by two of the senior-most justices serving in the Supreme Court, surfaced on Wednesday and was circulated on various social media forums. Unsurprisingly, it quickly became the topic of heated debates on the 26th Amendment and how a controversial piece of legislation enacted under questionable circumstances was allowed to become a fait accompli by the highest court.

The missive, which its authors said had been prompted by a recent decision to publish the minutes of an Oct 31, 2024, meeting of the court's Practice and Procedure Committee, read like a riposte to two notes recently uploaded to the Supreme Court website and attributed to the chief justice, in which he had explained why challenges to the 26th Amendment were sent to the Constitutional Bench to adjudicate and not presented before a full court.

The controversy is already well known. However, the judges' letter does shed some fresh light on the chief justice's decision to set the petitions challenging the amendment before the Constitutional Bench. The judges point out that the meeting of the Practice and Procedure Committee, which decided to place the petitions before a full court bench, had been called in accordance with the relevant law, and the decision could not be ignored or overruled. This much was previously known. However, they assert that the decision was ignored after the chief justice informally and individually met the other judges of the court without their knowledge or involvement. The chief justice later concluded from these meetings that placing the matter before the full court "could dampen the much-needed spirit of collegiality among the judges and further expose the court to public scrutiny".

That is certainly not a very satisfactory explanation, and the two senior judges appear correct in their indignation over the Committee being overruled. Arbitrary decision-making by past chief justices had been the primary justification for the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act, 2023, which subsequently mandated that the Committee decide all crucial issues before the court.

Meanwhile, "The challenges to the 26th Amendment continue to remain pending, and a golden opportunity to decide them [...] before the institution as a whole — ie, the full court as it then stood — has been lost, perhaps irretrievably", the judges regret in the letter. One hopes that this is not so.

The chief justice must reconsider. It has since become clear that this amendment has done substantial harm to both the judiciary and the constitutional order. The Supreme Court must decide this matter as a whole and reaffirm its solidarity in this moment of crisis.

Token feminism in development

Saeed Ahmed

Women in Pakistan constitute 48.5 per cent of the population but face systemic disadvantages in education, healthcare and economic participation. To realise the country's full potential, increasing women's economic participation is critical.

Pakistan hit rock bottom in the World Economic Forum's 2025 Global Gender Gap Index out of 148 countries, with 56.7pc gender parity; it has closed only 2.3pc of the gap since 2006. It ranks below Sudan, Chad, Iran, Guinea and Congo. In South Asia, Bangladesh holds the 24th position, demonstrating a far more favourable gender equality landscape. This is the second year in a row that Pakistan's gender parity score has declined.

This alone is a damning indictment of the little progress made — despite millions being poured into gender equality initiatives by international development agencies. However, the deeper problem is not lack of funding, but the misuse of a noble narrative to justify wasteful development programming. It should lead to deep introspection about why gender equality efforts keep failing.

Take, for example, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) initiative with Pakistan's National Transmission and Dispatch Company to increase female participation in technical and leadership roles.

A \$182,000 technical assistance grant — part of the broader Power Transmission Enhancement Investment Programme — was awarded to support 'gender mainstreaming' through drafting a workplace gender policy, training 20pc of female staff and auditing an internship programme. This reads more like an HR department's annual plan than a serious de-

velopment intervention. Any functional organisation with a competent HR team can perform such tasks.

So why is our ailing power sector the testing ground for gender experiments scripted in distant multilateral offices?

The broader problem is a development culture that rewards symbolism over substance.

This is not an isolated case. ADB partnered with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to develop a Women Entrepreneurs Finance Code under a Women-Inclusive Financial Sector Development Programme funded through a \$5.5m grant and \$150m loan.

In June 2025, another \$350m loan was approved to support women's access to finance and provide credit to women-led micro SMEs. The code, launched with fanfare, is merely a declaration of intent to close financing gaps by designating a leader to monitor data and introduce targets. While gender-responsive finance is a valid policy goal, was this multimillion-dollar donor intervention truly necessary when the SBP already has the legal mandate, institutional capacity and technical expertise to design such policies? Or is this just donor funding chasing headlines, not solutions?

Has the central bank run out of ideas to promote financial inclusion, which it championed until a decade ago when the Economist Intelligence Unit rated Pakistan's microfinance regulatory framework the best in the world in 2010 and 2011, and the third best in 2013 and 2014? Either way, such supply-driven initiatives only weaken state institutions.

ADB has been involved in Pakistan's financial sector since 2000, when it launched a \$150m microfinance sector development programme to provide financial services to the poor, especially women. The World Bank is also ac-

tively involved in gender empowerment projects, focusing on education, economic participation and access to finance.

In March this year, the World Bank approved a \$102m loan to enhance access to microcredit and support the resilience of the microfinance sector. ADB and World Bank have extended loans for the same purpose for over 25 years. Similarly, bilateral donors continue to fund gender empowerment initiatives. The UK's F C D O - o w n e d Karandaaz also invests in profitable banks and established corporates to increase access to SME finance, including for women entrepreneurs.

This unneeded donor exuberance in Pakistan's most profitable financial sector underscores a lack of interest in addressing core development challenges. These initiatives mainly advance the careers and networks of donor staff, consultants and local counterparts. There is clearly a problem when aid becomes a lucrative industry. It absolves the government of its responsibility to work for the welfare of its citizens. This aid addiction — fostered by international donors — has contributed to institutional decay, economic stagnation and insurmountable debt.

In fact, the actual outcomes of donor programmes implemented over the past decades show deteriorating trends. Pakistan's credit-to-GDP ratio fell from 27pc in 2008 to 9pc in 2024 — the lowest among emerging countries. Credit remains concentrated in large corporates, with nearly 70pc allocated to manufacturing.

This reflects banks' disconnect from the broader economy as well as the ineffectiveness of SBP regulation and donor involvement in the financial sector. More troubling is the steady decline in SMEs' access to fi-

nance; their share of total private sector credit dropped from 17pc in the mid-2000s to just 6pc in 2024. The number of SME borrowers also declined from 185,000 in 2007 to 172,000 in 2024. Most financing is directed towards medium enterprises.

The broader problem is a development culture that rewards symbolism over substance. Pakistan's addiction to foreign aid has fostered a policy environment where any externally funded programme is welcomed without scrutiny. Frivolous projects are designed to please donors, not solve real problems, reflecting waste and abuse. Whether in foreign-funded tax reforms, energy sector financial sustainability projects, or gender mainstreaming campaigns, the pattern is consistent: poor design, poor results.

Tragically, these projects are celebrated with MoUs, photo-ops, and social media hype, while the women they claim to empower remain invisible. This isn't just inefficient — it's unethical. Tokenism empowers donor staff, consultants and policymakers, not women; it reduces gender equality to a funding checkbox. Worse, they hide behind bizarre buzzwords like 'gender-responsive climate finance' or 'gender-transformative value chains' — jargon-masking emptiness.

We must not confuse real gender empowerment with bureaucratic parody. Genuine change means women's access to education and healthcare, legal rights (especially inheritance), protection from violence, and more women in the workforce — not elite seminars, lavish launches, or pricey consultants churning out reports that nobody reads. Pakistan needs genuine reforms, not donor-driven theatre. And it is time we start calling out the phoney feminism that masquerades as development.

Fire & attraction

Shahzad Sharjeel

Peaceniks on both sides of the Radcliffe Line are eating humble pie; the warmongers radiate with their 'told-you-so' glow. Journalistic neutrality has been thrown to the winds; anchors, reporters and analysts have traded their reputations and professionalism for certificates of patriotism from state institutions. The hate wave is far more severe than the heatwaves that keep sweeping the region.

It is hard to say whether the dogfights in the sky were more dramatic and intense than the clashes on the airwaves. Seasoned veterans in international media were humbled by promising podcasters.

The arguments of my favourite Mahabharata character's namesake were thoroughly punctured on his talk show. Mr Thapar started the verbal battle with the full bravado of the Pandavas' half-brother, but to his 'guest' Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's supporters, by the end of the programme, he lay like Bhishma on a bed of arrows. The chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party, his fans believe, left victorious to the Balochi beat of Dilan teer bijan (an arrow to your heart), an anthem of sorts for the PPP whose electoral symbol happens to be an arrow.

None of this should be read as 'we won' because we are all losing our humanity. The Indian intransigence in refusing to provide evidence for Pakistan's alleged involvement in the Pahalgam incident doesn't help anyone.

The old trick of closing embarrassing and irritating cases with fake encounters where terrorists carry their IDs in their front pockets is as believable as Bollywood scripts these days. One hopes the real terrorists of Pahalgam are found, tried and brought to justice. Some of us still want the madness to stop despite the hate industry working double shifts.

We are all losing our humanity.

The deterrence theory of Mutually Assured Destruction may have over-

looked the fact that madness has degrees; the mad could be destructive, but it is the raving mad who self-destruct. Seventy-eight years after the division of the subcontinent, to ostracise the 'other' remains an obsession on both sides. We do not seem to have enough discriminatory clauses in nikahnama; they are cancelling the Overseas Citizen of India status of persons with a Pakistani parent.

The respective systems have become so convoluted that, to make it work in your favour, you must follow the official narrative of hatred and otherisation. Amusician and composer renouncing his nationality led to him gaining Indian citizenship because it portrayed Pakistan negatively. This is despite both his parents being Muslim; his father was Pakistani, and his mother was Indian from Jammu. Conversely, Aatish Taseer's OCI was revoked because his father was prominent Pakistani politician Salmaan Taseer.

It is tragic that the man, whose Pakistani identity casts doubt on Aatish's Indianness, could not escape the same bigotry in his own country. He was the governor of Punjab when he was shot dead by his guard for supporting a Christian woman's right to defend herself against what later turned out to be false charges of blasphemy.

Aatish is the only son of Tavleen Singh, a well-known Indian journalist.

In a recent interview, he described the absurdity of the fact that while Mr Modi called his mother to inquire about her ailing partner, he had no hesitation in stopping her only son from visiting his elderly mother or attending his maternal grandmother's funeral.

This, unfortunately, is not the only tragedy to have befallen a Taseer. Aatish's half-brother, Shahbaz Taseer, was kidnapped in broad daylight from Lahore and kept in the brutal captivity of an extremist network operating on both sides of the Dur-and-Line for more than four years.

Time for lifestyle medicine

Zafar Mirza

Non-Communicable diseases in Pakistan present a growing burden of disease (BoD) that no number of advanced medical interventions can tackle.

This umbrella includes chronic diseases and conditions like cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity, liver and kidney dysfunction, chronic obstructive respiratory disorders, cancers, mental disorders, etc.

Globally, 74 per cent of deaths are caused by these diseases. Seventy-three per cent of all deaths due to NCDs occur in low- and middle-income countries. In 2010, the burden of disease posed by NCDs in Pakistan surpassed that of communicable diseases with ever-increasing presentations.

Currently, every fourth adult above the age of 20 in Pakistan suffers from Type II diabetes; that's 33 million adults, making us the third-largest population in the world, right after India and China. Every third Pakistani adult above the age of 45 years suffers from high blood pressure.

One in every nine women is likely to face breast cancer. In Pakistan, years lived with disability — a product of prevalence and disability weight — for women aged 10 to 24 years, due to breast cancer, is the highest in the world. Every fourth woman quietly struggles with perinatal depression.

A study spanning 30 years on BoD trends in Pakistan shows that all NCDs are on the rise. Ischemic heart disease, for example, has increased by more than 25pc in the last 30 years. In terms of changes in the BoD ranking of diseases, diabetes moved from 26th place in 1990 to eighth place in 2019, and breast cancer from 38th to 18th in the same period.

The WHO lists the following five key risk factors for major NCDs: tobacco use, an unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, harmful intake of alcohol and air pollution.

Lifestyle medicine is about holistic care.

A major element of these diseases, conditions and their associated risk factors comprises our behaviours in daily lives.

The burden of disease of NCDs will not change until we change our individual lifestyle choices.

Lifestyle medicine is about holistic self-care and supporting others to change their daily unhealthy behaviours in terms of what they eat (nutrition); how much they exercise (physical activity); how much they sleep (restorative sleep); how they handle stress (stress management); their use of any harmful substances (addictions); and the quality of their social connectedness. These are the six evidence-backed pillars of lifestyle medicine.

Though the ideas posited are not new, this is still, in a way, a new branch of medical science. Lifestyle medicine has reorganised old ideas into a new, preventive and therapeutic framework, with strong evidence at the base of each of its six pillars. Many credible studies speak to the effectiveness of these lifestyle behavioral changes when sustained. The collective and synergistic effect of these six behaviours is transformative in the truest sense of the word.

Adopting these behaviours when we are 'healthy' or 'disease-free' tremendously lowers the chances of developing NCDs. However, since lifestyle medicine in its current form has primarily been developed by medical practitioners in the West, understandably, the emphasis is on treatment.

In the therapeutic sphere, this medicine has indeed shown unequivocal effectiveness, to an extent that patients with NCDs not only experience remission but also a reversal of their diseases, which I have discussed in my column 'Reversing NCDs' (March 21, 2025) focusing solely on the disease or symptoms.

Lifestyle medicine employs a holistic approach rather than focusing solely on the disease. Its aim is to entrain the whole person by aligning with the circadian rhythm and restoring homeostasis. It generally employs non-pharmaceutical lifestyle interventions. In the hands of a skilled lifestyle medical practitioner, the results are astounding.

The American College of Lifestyle Medicine, es-

tablished in 2004, conducts various 'continued medical education' activities year-round, including a board exam. The International Board of Lifestyle Medicine was set up by the ACLM in 2018 and hosts lifestyle medicine certification exams around the world, which have produced, to date, over 8,000 IBLM diplomats in 92 countries, including 41 in Pakistan, according to the last count. In 2015, the ACLM also initiated the Lifestyle Medicine Global Alliance comprising professional lifestyle medicine associations from around the world.

The only national body from Pakistan in this global alliance is the Pakistan Association of Lifestyle Medicine, which was founded in 2016 by the visionary Dr Shagufta Feroz, the first IBLM diplomat from Pakistan. It has since grown in terms of its membership, credibility and global standing. Since 2021, PALM is the only organisation in Pakistan authorised to conduct the IBLM certification.

Dr Feroz started out as a family physician in Lahore. Getting fed up over time with the way general practice was being conducted, with its irrational use of medicines, and the pharmaceutical industry's unethical practices, she began to explore alternatives. Dr Feroz ended up completing two PhD degrees in nutrition and integrated medicine from the US.

During this period, she came across lifestyle medicine and finally found her nirvana.

She has since been promoting this science by contextualising it in Pakistan's case, and is currently running the 11th Postgraduate Lifestyle Medicine Certificate Course. I myself recently graduated from the 10th course, which I enjoyed and benefited from tremendously. She has developed a great team of professionals, with 'positive deviation', that continues to grow.

That said, PALM still has a long way to go in terms of mainstreaming lifestyle medicine in the healthcare system. For starters, it needs to be integrated at the undergraduate level into the education of health professionals.

Normal abnormal

Arifa Noor

The humidity hangs heavily in the air but doesn't deter the quiet protest by a small group of women. They sit silently, their heads bowed, a small splash of colour against the grey concrete. With their old-fashioned hand fans, they occupy a sheet of plastic in the middle of the road.

The nearby green areas, which once allowed Pakistan to bring its problems to Islamabad by holding protests there, is closed to these women. The earth and grass are far too comfortable for them to be allowed there. They have to sit on the road, close to a busy commercial area, but away from the business in the area, as traffic barriers create a boundary, separating them from life in the capital. They have been here for a month but have not managed to disturb the life of the city or the government. How can they when even the doors of the washrooms of the press club close by are closed to them? Those who should be the flag-bearers of freedom of information are now a part of a system which bears down on citizens rather than standing up for the oppressed.

So it's not just the washrooms but also coverage which is denied. These protesters are ignored, blacked out. There was a time, when such a gathering would have galvanised enough opinion to put any government on the back foot. Not anymore. The women's steadfastness in this heat and in these circumstances moves no one. Perhaps partly because most people do not even know they are here and partly because this government has no space to even pretend to care about human rights.

The protest has been rendered invisible.

But then the political suffering of women has been normalised in the abnormal times we live in — the women in Islamabad who are not even allowed to sit on grass lest it prove too comfortable, or Mahrang Baloch who has been imprisoned with little chance

of any relief in the near future. In Lahore, Yasmin Rashid has been behind bars for two years, with little concern for anyone outside of her party (which can barely do more than pay lip service to the matter). Her age moves no one; neither do the elderly women sitting on the road in this heat in a corner of Islamabad, carrying pictures of their missing loved ones in their heavily wrinkled hands. Their endless wait is for closure as well as some compassion from those in charge.

Ask the government about anything untoward and they simply shrug it off.

But suffering and lack of compassion have been normalised in the abnormal times we live in. As has been the indifference of political parties, which can no longer even pretend to care. Not even those who continue to bask in the glory of a woman who was once the lone symbol of suffering and the target of the powerful ones.

This is not all that has been normalised.

Consider journalism. Arrests, FIRs, disappearances — temporary and permanent — were part of what journalists signed up for. What it meant was that only the brave ones would continue down certain paths (most opened the door and walked through to the compound where awards adorn one's resumé). But despite this, we have seen a fair share of brave souls who continued to face the dangers. Here too, though, there is an effort to remind them that this may not prove enough.

In recent times, at least two journalists have spoken about how the bank accounts of family and even acquaintances have been blocked. Parents, siblings and even vendors who made the mistake of selling to pesky journalists have been affected. The only recourse left to them were the courts, which, too, are now enveloping themselves in the mantle of indifference. But the message is that collective punishment is the fate of those who will not heed more specific messages about

falling in line. Or that the element of surprise will always be their fate. When blocked bank accounts did not prove enough, one of them was stopped from flying out of the country recently. Since then, a PTI politician's daughter has also found her way to the list. Her father is neither in power nor in parliament and is perhaps not in a position to make any decision but still had to be sent a message. And for this, a university student was stopped from leaving the country, putting her education at risk.

In all of these random, seemingly disconnected incidents, there is a commonality — no one can be asked about them or even shamed. The government has moved beyond this — ask them about anything untoward and they simply shrug it off. There must be a reason, a valid reason, is the only answer. If it's a journalist, he or she must have done something wrong to attract the 'long arm of the law'. And if there is a story involving a politician from the opposition, the easiest response is to either hint at the former's non-patriotic credentials or feign ignorance and move on.

Indifference has been normalised in these abnormal times.

And while some of us do express horror, grief and shock, it amounts to little; the second such incident is taken in its stride. It has already happened to others and if the previous incident was accepted, so should the new one. The shock and horror turns into acceptance.

But then, these are abnormal times, we tell ourselves. And they might not last and neither will these stories. However, this provides little comfort for I can remember when we first began to hear of 'missing people'; when stories about the missing were read avidly because it was so new. Or when suicide bombings first happened in Pakistan. Then the times changed, leaders changed but we learnt to live with the missing and the suicide bombers. Times don't last necessarily but the abnormal soon becomes normal.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, chaired a meeting to review the availability and prices of essential commodities in the country.

DPM Dar reaffirms govt's focus on price stability, affordable energy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday underlined the government's commitment to ensuring price stability, maintaining adequate supplies of essential goods, and protecting the interests of consumers across the country.

The DPM/FM chaired a meeting to review the availability and prices of essential commodities in the country, where the committee reviewed the current market availability, assessed stock positions, and examined recent trends in commodity prices, a DPM's Office news release said.

The meeting was at-

tended by the Minister for National Food Security & Research (MNFSR), SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Secretaries of MNFSR, Commerce, Industries & Production, Chairman FBR, along with senior officials from relevant federal and provincial departments.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday underscored the need to enhance natural resources exploration and increase productivity, while ensuring that energy was made available to the people at affordable prices.

The DPM/FM chaired a meeting on the energy sector, where the Ministry of Petroleum gave

a detailed briefing on the overall energy situation in Pakistan and shared various proposals for improving the sector, a DPM's Office news release said.

Dar emphasized that Pakistan has been blessed with energy and mineral resources, and highlighted the importance of developing the sector to maximize its productivity and contribution to Pakistan's economic growth.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Petroleum, SAPM, on Privatisation, SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Petroleum, Pakistan's Ambassador to Doha, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Petroleum Division.

SK Hydro distributes education assistance to local students

ISLAMABAD (INP): SK Hydro Limited held its 2024-2025 "Dreams Becoming Reality" education assistance ceremony at the Suki Kinari Hydropower Station where 29 local students received support for their studies in healthcare, engineering, and vocational training.

The event was attended by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mansehra, representatives of the local military, and senior company officials, according to Gwadar Pro.

The initiative, launched in September 2024, aims to provide education support to young people in the project area and is now in its second year.

In his remarks, the DC of Mansehra congratulated the hydropower station on nearing its first anniversary of commercial operations and acknowledged its role in contributing to local development.

He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring a safe and stable environment for the project.

Community infrastructure projects connected with SK Hydro, in-

cluding a viewing platform and a government service center in the Khan area, are also under development.

Since beginning operations in September 2024, the hydropower station has generated over 2.4 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, according to company figures.

Officials said the project is helping to provide clean energy to the national grid while supporting local communities through education and development programs.

Following the ceremony, the DC of Mansehra and his delegation toured the powerhouse and switching station to review operational performance.

He praised the project for maintaining safe and efficient power generation under challenging conditions and highlighted the effective cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani employees.

The 884 MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Station was built with investment from China Energy Overseas Investment Co., Ltd. and is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

NA committee on Economic Affairs Division meets

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Affairs Division met under the chairmanship of Sher Ali Arbab and discussed different matters relating to economic growth and progress in the country.

The committee showed its displeasure on the absence of power sector representatives and senior officials from Ministry of Planning Islamabad to brief the committee on their relevant agenda items, said a press release.

The committee unanimously recommended that the Lyari Elevated Freight Corridor (LEFC) be added in the Public Sector Development Program projects. The committee was informed that a comprehensive plan being undertaken by the Ministry of Communications and the National Highway Authority (NHA) to optimize freight movement and enhance logistical efficiency in the Karachi region. Among the alternatives is the potential development of the Karachi Northern Bypass (KNB). The options under consideration involves a significant upgrade of the existing at-grade, 2-lane KNB highway to a modern, high-capacity 4 to 6 lane motorway standard.

The committee discussed the matter concerning the award of a significant infrastructure contract, valued at approximately

Rsl 72 billion, to M/S Ningxia Communications Construction Company. In light of the concerns raised and to ensure absolute transparency and accountability, the Prime Minister has been urged to intervene in the matter for immediate inquiry.

The committee has further recommended that all work associated with the aforementioned construction firm on this project should be suspended until the inquiry is conclusively completed with all facts and figures comes in front.

Regarding the briefing on NGO's policy, the Ministry representatives said that the initial draft regarding NGO's policy has been forwarded for consideration to the federal cabinet. Upon its approval by the cabinet, the finalized policy will be presented to the Parliament as a legislative proposal to undergo the requisite constitutional process and be enacted into law.

The meeting was attended by Members of National Assembly (MNAs) including Shahid Usman, Muhammad Khan Dahi, Akhtar Bibi, Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Syeda Shehla Raza, Muhammad Jawed Hanif Khan, Shandana Gulzar Khan and Nasim Ali Shah.

The meeting was also attended by officials of Ministry of Economic Affairs and other officers concerned.

PM urges tech investment in agriculture to boost economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the investment in revamping agriculture sector on modern technology-based solutions would augment economic development of the country as agriculture is the backbone of its economy.

The prime minister addressed a ceremony held here to mark the departure of another 300 students to China for specialized training under the bilateral youth development program a significant step towards transforming Pakistan's agriculture sector. The initiative, a result of strengthened Pakistan-China collaboration, aims to equip Pakistani youth with modern agricultural knowledge and techniques.

During the event, the prime minister lauded the success of the first batch of 300 students who returned after completing high-quality training in Chinese institutions, particularly in the province of Xianzi. He noted that the program began following his visit to an agriculture university in the province, where he observed the strong academic and practical focus of Chinese training in agriculture.

"We are an agrarian

economy, and agriculture is our backbone. Any investment in this sector directly strengthens the national economy. The youth selected through a transparent and merit-based process from all provinces, including an enhanced 10% quota for Balochistan, are our ambassadors in China. They must show the highest standards of discipline, learning, and respect," said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The prime minister emphasized that Pakistan's economic revival depends on modernizing its agriculture sector and that the youth are the key to unlocking this potential.

"We must revive our cotton sector, which once produced 14 million bales but now stands at only 4 million.

Similarly, livestock holds massive untapped potential. It is through honesty, struggle, and merit that Pakistan can reach the heights envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam," he said.

The prime minister urged students to return as change agents for Pakistan's agriculture sector, expressing hope that with merit-based effort and discipline, the nation can achieve the prosperity envisioned at its

founding. "The youth are the custodians of Pakistan's future. If we remain honest, disciplined, and focused, nothing can stop us from building the Pakistan of our dreams," concluded Prime Minister Sharif.

He extended heartfelt gratitude to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Xian Zaidong, and Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi for their roles in making the program a reality.

Chinese Ambassador Xian Zaidong, in his remarks, expressed pride in the deep-rooted friendship between China and Pakistan and reaffirmed China's commitment to support Pakistani development.

"Students studying in China have greatly benefited from their exposure to modern agricultural practices. This initiative aligns with President Xi Jinping's vision of youth development," said the Chinese Ambassador.

Ambassador Zaidong also presented a cheque to Prime Minister Sharif on behalf of the Chinese government as assistance for Pakistan's flood affectees, a gesture warmly appreciated by the Prime Minister.



DHAKA: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan meets Bangladesh's Adviser for Commerce Sk. Bashir Uddin to discuss promotion of bilateral trade and investment.

Jam Kamal, Bangladeshi adviser discuss enhanced cooperation on food security and trade

DHAKA (Online): The Minister for Commerce of Pakistan, H.E. Jam Kamal Khan, held a meeting with Bangladesh's Adviser for Food, H.E. Mr. Ali Imam Majumdar, in Dhaka today to discuss possible collaborations in food security.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the MoU on Rice Trade between Trading Corporation of Pakistan and the Directorate General of Food, Bangladesh - in signed January 2025, under which Pakistan has successfully delivered 50,000

MT of rice.

It was agreed that the MoU will work as a gateway for regular exchanges of delegations on both Government to Government and Business to Business levels for enhancing trade of essential commodities.

The Minister also noted that the upcoming 3rd International Food and Agricultural Exhibition (FoodAg) which is being held in Karachi on 25-27 November 2025 provides an opportunity for Bangladeshi businesses and

government officials to have an in-depth understanding of Pakistan's agricultural landscape.

The Adviser and the Minister stressed the need to enhance the yield of crops by improving agricultural practices to meet the growing demands of food commodities in both countries.

The meeting concluded with the commitment to build on present collaboration through multiple stakeholder engagement and joint efforts.

Growers urged tobacco board to break monopoly of private companies

SWABI (APP): Ittehad Kashtkaran (Farmers Union) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has demanded of Pakistan Tobacco Board to play role to end monopoly of private companies and make efforts for facilitation of tobacco growers.

Addressing a press conference in Swabi Press Club here Friday, representatives of tobacco growers said that KP government has failed to adopt a clear policy regarding purchase of tobacco crop. They said tobacco crop has not been purchased by private companies due to absence of a clear policy.

They said that both agreement holders and non-agreement holders has been facing hardships adding that tobacco growers are being pressurized by different delaying tactics.

Soneri Bank & MG offer lowest auto financing with instant processing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Soneribank has announced a special collaboration with MG Motors Pakistan, offering customers the most competitive auto financing package in the industry under the conventional and Islamic financing facilities.

With an unprecedented financing rate starting from a rate of 1 Year KIBOR + 2%, Soneri Bank and MG financing offer sets a new benchmark in affordability and convenience for auto consumers, said a news release.

It also offers an Insurance rate of 1.5% with tracker, 100% waiver in processing fee and 100% waiver in early settlement and balloon payment penalty.

The offer is available on select MG models, including the MG HS and

MG HS Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV), catering to customers who seek a perfect balance of modern design, advanced technology, and eco-friendly mobility.

Speaking about the collaboration, Syed Asif Ahmed, General Manager, Marketing Division, MG Motors Pakistan, said:

"This partnership with Soneri Bank further strengthens our vision of making premium mobility accessible for more people in Pakistan. Customers now have the opportunity to enjoy MG's cutting-edge technology and eco-friendly vehicles, while benefiting from the industry's lowest financing rates in a fully Shariah-compliant manner. It's a win-win for innovation, affordability, and customer convenience."



KARACHI: City Petroleum's Arshad Aziz meeting with Vice Chairman BBotT Bilal Khan Kakar.

Balochistan poised for investment boom in coastal & energy sectors

Kakar discusses investment opportunities with city petroleum CEO Arshad Aziz

KARACHI (6 AM Report): Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Investment Board, Bilal Khan Kakar, held a key meeting with City Petroleum CEO Arshad Aziz to explore vast investment opportunities in Balochistan's coastal belt and its untapped natural resources.

During the meeting, held in Karachi, both officials discussed in detail the potential of investing in sectors such as oil, gas, and energy, particularly along Balochistan's resource-rich coastline.

Speaking on the occasion, Bilal Kakar highlighted that Balochistan is abundantly blessed with natural resources—including minerals, coastal assets, and significant energy reserves. "Harnessing these resources through modern approaches will not only generate employment and improve the welfare of the people of Balochistan but

also strengthen the national economy," he said.

He emphasized that the promotion of investment in the province will lead to the development of the industrial sector, boost commercial activities, and enhance investor confidence, both domestic and foreign.

Kakar also noted that Balochistan's coastal region holds great promise for large-scale investment in oil, gas, and renewable energy projects. He reiterated the commitment of the Balochistan Investment Board to transform the province into an attractive investment hub. "Our goal is to channel these natural blessings into national development and prosperity for the people," he added.

The meeting signals a positive step towards fostering meaningful public-private partnerships aimed at unlocking Balochistan's true economic potential.

Punjab agriculture secretary to chair meeting on cotton crop

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Agriculture Punjab, Iftikhar Ali Sahoo, was scheduled to visit Multan on Saturday, August 23, 2025, where he will chair a meeting to assess the current state of the cotton crop in the region.

The meeting will be held at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan, and will bring together key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. The agenda included a comprehensive review of the ongoing cotton season and the formulation of a strategic plan for improved crop management in the coming weeks.

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Speaking at a think tank session at the PCJCCI Secretariat, acting President Zafar Iqbal called CPEC a "game changer" for Af-

ghanistan. He noted that the corridor could transform the landlocked nation into a land-linked regional hub, connecting it through infrastructure, trade, and logistics to regional economic centers.

With plans underway for Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and other Central Asian countries to utilize Gwadar Port, the opportunities for Afghanistan's transport and infrastructure sectors could be vast, Iqbal said.

The PCJCCI highlighted that Afghanistan, being in proximity to markets with over 3 billion con-

sumers, has the potential to become a central player in future Eurasian trade routes. According to World Bank estimates, improvements in trade facilitation, infrastructure development, and mining could collectively push GDP growth to 6% per year.

One of the major projects discussed was the Kabul-Peshawar railway line, part of a broader strategy to link Afghanistan with Gwadar and Karachi through over 3,000 kilometers of road and rail corridors, integrating it into the extended CPEC net-

work. Access to Gwadar Port could reduce Afghanistan's import-export costs by 30-40% compared

livestock sectors—which sustain over 60% of Afghanistan's population—stand to benefit significantly from improved irrigation

Strategic connectivity through CPEC may transform Afghanistan into a vital trade hub for Central, South, and West Asia

to its current northern routes or through Iran. The port currently handles 13 million tonnes annually and is being expanded to support up to 100 million tonnes.

The agriculture and

systems, logistics, and market access. Targeted investments could double agricultural output within five years, PCJCCI suggested.

The Chamber also emphasized Afghanistan's vast

untapped mineral wealth, valued between \$1-3 trillion. This includes 2.2 billion tonnes of iron ore, 60 million metric tonnes of copper, and substantial lithium and rare earth element reserves, which could attract foreign mining companies under a CPEC-aligned processing framework.

Industrial development will revolve around Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which are projected to create over 150,000 direct jobs through manufacturing units, logistics hubs, agro-processing centers, and tech parks.

Balochistan crippled by border closures, rising unemployment, insecurity: Provincial lawmakers

“People are now desperate for peace instead of jobs,” say MPAs as they call for urgent development and economic revival

QUETTA (ANN): Members of the Balochistan Assembly have voiced grave concerns over the deteriorating law and order situation, economic stagnation, and lack of employment opportunities in the province, stating that the people are now “longing for peace rather than jobs.”

Speaking separately, MPA Mir Zabid Ali Reki (Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam), Mir Asadullah Baloch, and Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch (National Party) highlighted the severe impacts of ongoing border closures, which have brought daily life and business activities in Balochistan to a near standstill.

“Due to the shutdown of border trade routes, particularly in towns near the

frontiers, the youth are falling into despair,” said Mir Zabid Ali Reki. “The entire burden of this situation lies with the current government, which has failed to provide alternative livelihoods.”

The legislators warned that widespread unemployment among the youth is not only wasting talent but also increasing the risk of social instability. They criticized the government for neglecting key areas such as mobile connectivity, data services, and modern infrastructure, leaving many districts of Balochistan in the dark ages.

“Border closures, along with lack of digital access and basic public services, have pushed the people to the brink,” said

Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch. “Citizens are facing travel hardships, disrupted trade, and rising poverty. The province’s economy is grinding to a halt.”

They called for serious deliberation on the issues affecting Balochistan and urged the government to immediately initiate development projects to raise living standards and establish lasting peace.

“Despite being rich in natural resources, Balochistan remains underdeveloped due to poor governance and flawed policy decisions,” added Mir Asadullah Baloch. “Sustainable development, better planning, and serious attention from the federal and provincial governments are crucial for the province’s future.”



QUETTA: Leader of PPP Kiran Baloch, Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Mir Liaquat Lehari meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umarani.

GoB moves to modernize travel services, pushes for people’s train project

21 New buses acquired, pink Scooties for female lawyers announced; railway officials skip key transport meeting

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, Mir Liaquat Lehari, has affirmed that the Balochistan government is utilizing all available resources to provide modern travel facilities to the public, warning that any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated.

Speaking during a high-level meeting on Friday to review public transport services, Lehari emphasized the government’s commitment to improving travel options across the province. The meeting was attended by Transport Secretary Hayat Khan Kakar, Shakeel Ahmed Baloch, and other senior officials. The meeting was informed that tenders for 100 pink scooties and a bus for female lawyers — an initiative announced by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti — will be floated within the next couple of days. Additionally, 21 new buses have been purchased to enhance public transportation; 17 of these will operate within Quetta, while four are

designated for Turbat. Lehari expressed concern over the lack of cooperation from railway authorities regarding the proposed People’s Train Service — a major public transport initiative promised by the Chief Minister. Despite an invitation, no railway official attended Friday’s meeting. “The federal Minister for Railways has assured full cooperation, yet we are not receiving a satisfactory response from the concerned railway officials,” said Lehari. He highlighted that the Green Bus Service, already operational in Quetta, is benefitting thousands of citizens daily, and the newly acquired buses will allow the expansion of this service to other areas of the city.

Lehari reiterated that providing convenient and modern travel facilities remains a top priority for the Balochistan government. “We are moving ahead, but the railways must also fulfill their commitment to the people of this province,” he concluded.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Mir Liaquat Ali Lehari listening the problems of people.

Power outages Scheduled

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) has announced that electricity supply will remain suspended in various areas of Quetta from August 23 to 25 due to ongoing development works, including the shifting of power lines and installation of poles. The company has expressed regret over the inconvenience and appealed for public cooperation.

According to QESCO’s official notification, on Saturday, August 23, power supply from Quetta City Grid Station will remain suspended from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the following 11kV feeders: Jinnah Town, Malik Plant, Brewery Road, Shahbaz Town, Old Sariab, Old Samungli, and Interconnector feeders.

Additionally, on August 23 and 24, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM daily, electricity supply from Sheikh Manda Grid Station will be suspended on feeders covering areas including Airport Road, Western Bypass, Jabal Noor, Dareem, Umar, Takatu, Chashma, and Kharotabad.

Similarly, on August 23 and 25, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, there will be a power outage from Sariab Grid Station affecting the 11kV New Jan Muhammad and Old Jan Muhammad feeders.

On Sunday, August 24, from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM, the power supply will be interrupted on the Stadium feeder of Quetta City Grid Station, as well as Gulistan Road, Liaquat Bazaar Express, Kasi-1 and Kasi-2 feeders from Mariabad Grid Station, and Old Liaquat Bazaar, New Jan Muhammad, and Old Jan Muhammad Road feeders from Sariab Grid.

Urban development under scrutiny; BA committee vows reforms

QUETTA (6 AM Report): A crucial meeting of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly’s Standing Committee on Urban Planning and Development was held today at the Assembly’s committee room under the chairmanship of Dr. Ashok Kumar. Members of the committee including Abdul Majeed Badini, Kulsoom Niaz Baloch, and Asfandiyar Kakar, along with Special Secretary of the Assembly Abdul Rehman, Secretary of Urban Planning and Development, and the Director of Quetta Development Authority (QDA) attended the session.

During the meeting, a comprehensive briefing was given on the roles, performance, and pressing challenges of the Urban Planning and Development Department. Committee members expressed concern over the department operating only two offices in owned premises, with the rest functioning from rented properties. Other key issues highlighted included overlapping jurisdiction with other departments, lack of divisional-level infrastructure, staff and budget shortages, inadequate logistics, and the non-functionality of the Balochistan Housing Authority.

Committee member Kulsoom Niaz Baloch appreciated the department’s relative success in completing development schemes efficiently compared to other departments. Chairman Dr. Ashok

Kumar assured that the committee will fully support the department and raise its concerns on the floor of the Assembly.

In the second session, the committee was briefed on the affairs of the Quetta Development Authority (QDA), which was established under the 1978 ordinance with a mandate to oversee Quetta’s urban development, including road expansion, water and sewerage projects, and public amenities.

However, the QDA is currently grappling with serious issues such as widespread encroachments, a surge in illegal housing schemes, legal hurdles, shortage of skilled staff and machinery, and an ongoing financial crisis. The committee was also informed that several QDA-related matters are under investigation by NAB, FIA, and Anti-Corruption authorities.

To address these challenges, the committee emphasized the need for amendments in existing laws, formulation and implementation of a comprehensive master plan, activation of an anti-encroachment cell, initiation of new legal housing and commercial schemes, and stringent action against illegal developments.

Dr. Ashok Kumar reiterated the committee’s commitment to strengthening the Urban Planning and Development Department and assured that its issues will be strongly advocated in the Assembly.

Hidayat-ur-Rehman says Uninterrupted power supply across Balochistan is a priority

QUETTA (ANN): Member of the Balochistan Assembly, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, has called for ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply across the province, particularly in the remote regions of the Makran Division. Leading a delegation, he visited the Gwadar Grid Station to meet with senior officials of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) and discuss issues related to power distribution and system improvement.

The delegation was briefed by Superintending Engineer Makran Circle QESCO, Shehzad Khetran, and Executive Engineer of the GSO (SS&T Division), Muhammad Yasin Baloch. Officials from various departments also attended the meeting, including representatives from Gwadar Port Authority and Gwadar Development Authority.

During the briefing, Muhammad Yasin Baloch explained that electricity to Makran is currently supplied through both the neighboring country Iran and Pakistan’s national grid. He said that in the event of interruptions or quota reductions from Iran, grid stations are shifted to the national grid to main-

tain supply. He assured the delegation that, under the special directives of QESCO CEO Engineer Yousaf Shah Khan, significant improvements have been made to stabilize voltage and enhance service quality. Superintending Engineer Shehzad Khetran expressed serious concerns over the growing burden of unpaid electricity bills, particularly from various government departments. He revealed that departments such as Public Health Engineering, Police, Education, Health, and others collectively owe billions in unpaid dues, putting significant financial strain on QESCO operations. Official notices have already been issued to these defaulting departments, but payment delays continue to hamper the company’s ability to maintain and upgrade infrastructure.

Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman acknowledged QESCO’s efforts and pledged his full support in resolving issues related to recovery and service delivery. He assured the power utility that he would work with relevant departments to ensure cooperation and help address the dues recovery challenge.

Equitable distribution of funds to usher in new era of dev. in Balochistan: Kakar

Development projects underway in all districts; PPP committed to public welfare under CM Sarfraz Bugti’s leadership

QUETTA (ANN): Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar has hailed the decision to distribute development funds across all districts of Balochistan as a historic and transformative step, asserting that it will address long-standing grievances and bring progress to even the most remote areas of the province.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Kakar said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the Balochistan government is prioritizing equity and transparency in the use of public funds, especially in the sectors of healthcare, education, employment, and infrastructure development.

“This initiative reflects the vision and commitment of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), a

party that has always stood by the people, even in the most challenging times,” he stated. “Through this fair distribution of development funds, a new chapter of prosperity is opening up for Balochistan’s neglected areas.”

Kakar emphasized that the PPP considers the welfare of the people of Balochistan its top priority, and will continue to work diligently to fulfill its promises. He credited the party’s district and divisional leadership, including CM Bugti, for their sacrifices and tireless efforts in making this development plan a reality.

“The people of Balochistan have consistently shown trust in the PPP, and we are committed to honoring that trust through action—not just words,” he said.

He further added that the development funds will have a direct impact on people’s lives, enabling the completion of essential projects across the province and ensuring basic services reach every citizen. These steps, he said, demonstrate PPP’s people-first approach, political vision, and dedication to inclusive progress.

“We reaffirm our resolve to leave no stone unturned in bringing peace, prosperity, and opportunities to the people of Balochistan. We will not shy away from any sacrifice in our mission for public welfare.”

Kakar concluded by highlighting that the recent allocation is not just a financial decision, but a symbol of the political will to see Balochistan thrive as an equal and progressive part of Pakistan.

Kasi appointed as DG QDA

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Grade-19 officer Aurangzeb Kasi has been appointed as the new Director General of the Quetta Development Authority (QDA), official sources confirmed on Thursday.

He replaces Iskar Khan, whose services have been transferred to the Chief Minister’s Secretariat, Balochistan.

According to sources, both officers have assumed charge of their respective new positions and have formally commenced their duties.

Dr. Iqbal shot dead by unknown assailants

PISHIN (UNA): In a tragic incident on Thursday, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal was shot dead by unidentified gunmen near Syed Hameed Cross in the Pishin district of Balochistan.

According to local sources, Dr. Iqbal was a resident of Saranan Tehsil in Pishin and was targeted by the assailants while traveling through the area. The attackers fled the scene after the shooting.

Law enforcement officials reached the site shortly after the incident and have launched a formal investigation. A police spokesperson confirmed that a search operation is underway to identify and apprehend the suspects.

The killing has raised concerns about security in the region, where targeted attacks have become increasingly frequent in recent months.

Authorities have assured the public that all efforts are being made to bring the perpetrators to justice.



QUETTA: Director General Levis Balochistan Abdul Gaffar Magasi meeting with Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Captain (ret) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

Balochistan to launch ‘Pink Bus service’ for women in Quetta: Rubaba Khan Buledi

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Advisor to the Balochistan Government on Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, has announced that a dedicated “Pink Bus Service” for women will soon be launched in Quetta under the provincial government’s commitment to women’s safety and empowerment.

Speaking to media, Dr. Buledi emphasized that providing secure and quality transportation to women is a top priority of the Government of Balochistan. As part of this initiative, the Transport Department has introduced five specially designated Pink Buses alongside the ongoing Green Bus service. These new buses will exclusively serve female passengers.

“These buses are meant to offer women a

safe, comfortable, and respectable commuting environment, especially for those traveling to educational institutions, workplaces, or for other daily responsibilities,” said Dr. Buledi.

She highlighted that a significant number of women are often forced to compromise on their education or professional careers due to a lack of reliable transport. The Pink Bus Service aims to eliminate that barrier, thus promoting women’s active participation in society and supporting their independence.

“Women’s development is key to Balochistan’s overall progress,” she noted, adding that the provincial government is committed to providing facilities and opportunities for women in every sphere of life.

Meena Majid says GoB committed to reviving sports grounds across province

Chess gaining official support as 13-year-old Rehan Khan Nasir honored for representing Balochistan in U.S. tournament

QUETTA (ANN): Parliamentary Secretary for Sports and Culture Meena Majid Baloch has announced that the Balochistan government is taking concrete steps to revive and develop sports grounds across the province, with a special focus on nurturing young talent.

Speaking to media during a ceremony held in honor of 13-year-old Rehan Khan Nasir, who represented Balochistan and Pakistan at an international inter-school chess competition in the United States, Meena Majid praised the young chess prodigy’s achievement and presented him with a cheque as a token of recognition.

“Balochistan is full of untapped talent in various sports, and it is our top priority to bring these skills to the forefront,” she said. “We are not only working

in Quetta, but also across remote areas of the province to ensure that sports fields are developed and talent is given the opportunity to grow.”

She added that chess is a game close to her heart, stating that she plays it daily with her children. “We will soon announce an official chess coaching program in Balochistan, and inter-school tournaments will be organized across the province to popularize the game,” she said.

The Parliamentary Secretary further stated that Rehan’s achievement would serve as a source of inspiration for thousands of young players, and she has plans to arrange a meeting between Rehan and Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, where further steps will be discussed to promote chess and other indoor games on a provincial level.

Population council hails govt panel, stresses media’s role in curbing inequalities

By Anila Ajaz

Quetta: Senior Director of the Population Council, Dr. Ali Mir, has said that in order to find sustainable solutions to the challenges arising from Pakistan’s rapid population growth, the Prime Minister has established a special high-level committee under the leadership of the Federal Minister for Planning Commission. He termed this initiative a significant achievement and the result of the Population Council’s long-standing efforts.

Speaking at the “Media Coalition on Population” meeting, organized by the Population Council in collaboration with UNFPA, Dr. Ali Mir welcomed the

Council of Islamic Ideology’s declaration on birth spacing as an important and positive step. He emphasized that despite these positive developments, glaring inequalities persist both among provinces and within provinces in terms of socio-economic indicators. According to him, the media must play a vital role in addressing these disparities by ensuring that government decisions are effectively implemented.

The meeting, themed “New Developments in Pakistan’s Reproductive Health Landscape and the Role of Media,” brought together journalists from leading media outlets across the provinces, as well as religious scholars and medi-

cal experts. Participants discussed ways to strengthen the role of media in advancing family planning and improving reproductive health outcomes.

Highlighting recent progress, Population Council’s Deputy Manager of Communications, Ikram Al-Ahad, said that important initiatives have been taken in recent months. These include: the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) declaring birth spacing in line with Islamic teachings for the health of mothers and children, the Prime Minister’s establishment of a high-level committee on population, exemption of sales tax on contraceptives, and a National Assembly

resolution recognizing rapid population growth as a national challenge.

Adding a religious perspective, Allama Tahmeed Jan Al-Azhari, Executive Director of the International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA), termed the CII declaration a milestone. He stated: “Islam not only permits but encourages appropriate birth spacing for the health and welfare of women and children.”

From a medical perspective, Dr. Saima Zubair, Information Secretary of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Pakistan (SoGP) and Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP), shared



alarming statistics. She noted: “The maternal mortality rate in Pakistan is approximately 180 per 100,000 live births, while neonatal mortality stands at 64 per 1,000 live births. Every year, nearly 3.8 million unintended pregnancies occur, putting women’s lives at risk. If a 24-month interval between births is observed, neonatal deaths

could be reduced by up to 50 percent.”

The participants unanimously agreed that the combination of religious support, political commitment, and financial facilitation represents a unique opportunity. By leveraging media to highlight these issues, Pakistan can be guided towards a healthier and more sustainable future.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari receiving credentials from the envoys of Sri Lanka, Indonesia (Chairman ASEAN Countries), Kyrgyzstan, Austria, and Germany at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Elements spreading terror in Balochistan are enemies of Progress: Ministers

Security forces and people of Pakistan stand united against terrorism; brave soldiers are the nation's true heroes

QUETTA(ANN): Provincial ministers of Balochistan have strongly condemned efforts to destabilize the province, declaring that those who spread fear and violence are enemies of Balochistan's development and Pakistan's unity. In separate statements, Provincial Health Minister Bakhth Muhammad Kakar, Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani, PHE Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetrani, and Noor Muhammad Dummur emphasized that the sacrifices and commitment of security forces are the reason why peace and progress continue in the province.

"You are all the true heroes of this nation," said Bakhth Muhammad Kakar

while addressing security personnel. "As long as the defense of our country is in the hands of such brave individuals, no enemy will dare look at Pakistan with ill intentions."

The ministers noted that a handful of elements are trying to push the province towards instability, but their efforts are bound to fail. "Balochistan was, is, and will always remain an integral part of Pakistan. It was on the path of development before, and it continues to move forward even now," said Shoaib Noshervani.

Minister Abdul Rehman Khetrani highlighted that the armed forces and the people of Pakistan stand side by

side in the fight against terrorism. He praised the round-the-clock efforts of security agencies in thwarting malicious activities and protecting the people of Balochistan.

The ministers collectively asserted that no conspiracy against Balochistan's peace, prosperity, and future will succeed. They reiterated that anyone attempting to hinder the province's progress will be dealt with according to the law.

They urged citizens to remain united and vigilant, stating that national integrity and development can only be achieved through collective resolve, public cooperation, and support for the armed forces.

Envoys of five countries present credentials to President Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday emphasized the need to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Austria, and Germany in diverse fields, particularly trade, economy, and culture.

The President expressed these views while talking to the High Commissioner-designate of Sri Lanka and the Ambassador-designate of Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Austria, and Germany to Pakistan, who called on him and presented their diplomatic credentials during a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr here, a Presidency's news release said. The High Commissioner-designate of Sri Lanka, Rear-Admiral H.L.A. Don Fred Senewirante, the Ambassador-designate of Indonesia

/ Chairman of ASEAN Countries, Chandra Warsenanto, the Ambassador-designate of Kyrgyzstan, Kylychbek Sultan, the Ambassador-designate of Austria, Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera, and the Ambassador-designate of Germany, Ina Ruth Luise Lepel, presented their diplomatic credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari.

On their arrival, the envoys were presented with the guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Armed Forces.

The President congratulated the High Commissioner and Ambassadors on their new assignments and expressed the hope that their tenure in Pakistan would help further deepen bilateral ties and broaden cooperation in mutually beneficial areas.

UK announces £1.33 aid for Pakistan's flood victims

LONDON (INP): The United Kingdom (UK) on Friday announced £1.33 million in humanitarian aid to support Pakistan's response to the devastating effects of the 2025 monsoon season. This funding will help more than 223,000 people across seven flood-affected districts in Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

UK High Commissioner in Pakistan Jane Marriot said that the UK's support is enabling a wide range of emergency and early recovery efforts. These include the provision of dry food rations, search and rescue operations, mobile medical camps, rehabilitation of drinking water systems, restoration of irrigation channels, and support for livelihoods and agriculture.

British High Commissioner said "Through UK-funded programmes, vital assistance is reaching communities affected by flood-

ing and landslides. Working closely with national and provincial authorities and partners, the UK remains committed to strengthening Pakistan's disaster response and resilience.

As part of this support, the UK has trained 2400 community volunteers for search and rescue operations, across Pakistan's vulnerable districts.

25 volunteers from Charsadda have joined Rescue 1122's efforts in Buner, providing crucial help at a time when many people remain missing or trapped under debris.

Mobile medical camps are being set up in areas where health clinics have been damaged, ensuring continued access to essential healthcare. Non-food items, food rations, shelter materials, and dignity kits for women are being distributed to displaced families.

DPM Dar chairs ECNEC, approves Rs 212bln Jinnah Medical Complex Project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/ FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Friday chaired a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), which gave the go-ahead for the Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 212 billion.

The landmark initiative will establish a state-of-the-art tertiary care hospital equipped with fully integrated medical, surgical, and research facilities,

aimed at strengthening Pakistan's healthcare infrastructure, a DPM's Office news release said.

While granting approval, ECNEC directed the formation of a dedicated committee to ensure financing arrangements for the project as well as its timely completion.

The meeting was attended by the Federal Ministers for Planning and Finance, SAPM Tariq Bajwa, provincial ministers, and senior officials from the Cabinet, Planning, Finance, Health, and Economic Affairs Division (EAD).

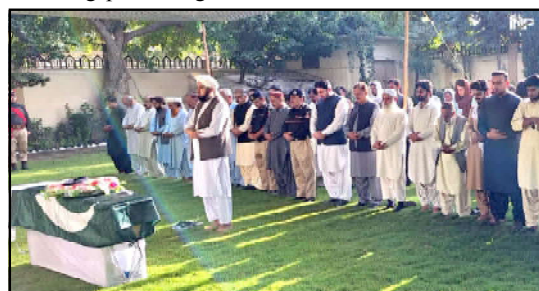
SSP traffic warns Motorcycles without number plates will not be released

QUETTA (UNA): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Dr. Sami Malik has announced that motorcycles impounded for lacking number plates will not be released unless both front and rear plates are properly affixed.

Speaking to media on Thursday, Dr. Malik emphasized that owners must fulfill all legal requirements, including presenting valid

front and back number plates, in order to reclaim their seized motorcycles.

"The campaign against unregistered and plate-less motorcycles is ongoing and will continue without interruption," he stated. "Citizens are advised to ensure their motorcycles are properly registered and that number plates are installed in accordance with traffic laws."



QUETTA: Quetta police interim chief Saeed Wazir, DG CTD Aitzaz Goraya, MPA Zarak Khan Mandokh and other offering funeral prayer of shaheed CTD Sub inspector Anayat Ullah who killed by Unknown person open fire.

PM announces drive to curb construction near waterways

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed immediate and coordinated relief and recovery operations and long-term preventive strategies amid launch of national anti-encroachment drive around waterways.

The prime minister chaired a high-level review meeting today to assess the damage caused by recent monsoon rains and floods across Pakistan, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Calling the assistance to flood victims a "national duty," the prime minister instructed the Ministry of Water Resources to fully support the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in restoring water supply systems in affected areas.

"Relief and rescue come first but the process of rehabilitation must begin without delay," the PM emphasized. He announced the launch of a nationwide campaign to prevent con-

struction along rivers, streams, and natural watercourses, highlighting the urgent need to protect these channels to avert future disasters. PM Shehbaz Sharif also directed that federal ministers and secretaries be immediately deployed to flood-affected areas where

Calls for swift relief, recovery steps in flood-hit areas

relief efforts are underway, to ensure effective oversight and coordination.

Expressing concern over two upcoming expected weather spells, the Prime Minister ordered early warnings to be issued to at-risk populations and called for strict monitoring of all vulnerable zones.

Focusing on Gilgit-Baltistan, where a glacier outburst last night caused debris to form a lake, the Prime Minister directed the NDMA Chairman to monitor the lake closely and en-

sure pre-emptive evacuation of potentially affected communities.

He instructed the use of engineering resources from the Pakistan Army and FCNA to facilitate the safe drainage of the lake without causing damage.

The meeting was briefed on the river situation, glacial risks, and upcoming weather patterns in the northern and southern regions of the country.

The Federal Minister for Information also updated the forum on the establishment of a Central Coordination Committee to streamline ongoing rescue and relief operations.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Dr. Musadik Malik, Engineer Amir Muqam, Abdul Aleem Khan, Sardar Awaris Leghari, Attaullah Tarar, Mian Moin Wattoo, Advisor Rana Sanaulah, SAPM Mubarak Zeb, and NDMA Chairman Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, along with senior officials.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of People's Republic of China H.E. Jiang Zaidong presents a relief cheque from the Government of China for the affected of recent flash floods in Pakistan.

Targeting members of families of political leaders is undemocratic attitude: Gohat

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman PTI Barrister Gohar while terming the arrest of sons of Aleema Khan sorrowful act has said targeting members of families of political leaders is undemocratic attitude adding such steps make the political and social environment more tense.

In his statement he demanded of government and institutions to demonstrate seriousness and restraint saying the situation in the country is already critical and it should not be worsened more.

We appeal such attitude be not adopted so that the situation could not improve. Barrister Gohar said stability and positive norms be promoted by abandoning political victimization. People of Pakistan are desirous for protection of democratic norms. All stake holders will have to play positive role for political stability.

Punishment being awarded to PTI activists for involvement in May 9 riots: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to Prime Minister Rana Sanaulah on Friday said that punishment was being awarded to Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI), activists found involved in May 9 riots. PTI workers and leaders had found involved in attacking on security institutions on May 9, he said while talking to a private television channel.

Tribal leader's son killed in Jinnah road shooting

QUETTA (6 AM Report): In a tragic incident that has sent shockwaves through the local community, Aslam Tareen, son of prominent tribal elder Haji Abdul Rauf Segi, was martyred in a targeted shooting near Jinnah Check Post on Jinnah Road late Friday evening.

According to initial reports, unidentified assailants opened fire on Tareen in what is believed to be a targeted attack. The incident occurred in close proximity to the heavily monitored Jinnah Check Post, raising serious questions about the security situation in the area.

Law enforcement agencies swiftly cordoned off the area and launched an investigation. However, no arrests had been made at the time of filing this report.

Funeral arrangements for Aslam Tareen are expected to be announced soon by the family.

IPP calls for creation of new provinces in country

ISLAMABAD (INP): Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) has formally called for the creation of new provinces in the country, aimed at improving governance, public service delivery and overall administrative structure.

According to the statement issued on Friday after the Party meeting, it has been proposed that the existing four provinces may be divided further into three administrative regions each North, South, and Central.

It has been mentioned that the current identity and name of the provinces can be retained as well.

This step, the Party asserts, is essential to address the growing population and modern governance challenges more effectively.

In a Party meeting chaired by IPP President & Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan, this demand has surfaced in the larger public interest. The meet-

ing was attended by Minister of State Aun Chaudhry, Punjab President Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan, along with other senior office bearers and Members of the Assembly. Talking in this regard, IPP President Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that the rapid population growth has made the establishment of new provinces unavoidable.

He said this initiative will bring Government services closer to the masses, enabling state institutions to perform their duties more effectively.

He further stated that the creation of new provinces in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan will ensure timely access to basic facilities for citizens, while High Courts, Chief Secretaries and Inspectors General of Police will be better positioned to discharge their responsibilities.

BHC establishes 'Assets Declaration Branch' to ensure transparency

All Judicial officers, high court and district judiciary staff directed to submit asset details by September 20

QUETTA (6 AM Report): In a significant move toward enhancing transparency and accountability within the judiciary, the Balochistan High Court has established a dedicated "Assets Declaration Branch" under the directives of Hon'ble Chief Justice Justice Rozi Khan Barrech.

According to an official press release issued by the High Court, the newly formed branch will be responsible for managing and maintaining the asset records of all judicial officers across Balochistan, as well as officers and staff of both the Balochistan High Court and the provincial district judiciary.

As per the an-

nouncement, all concerned officials have been strictly instructed to submit complete details of their movable and immovable assets using the prescribed forms within 30 days by September 20, 2025.

In addition, it has been mandated that an annual declaration of assets must be submitted by June 30 each year, beginning next year. The court has made it clear that non-compliance will lead to disciplinary proceedings under the applicable rules and laws.

The creation of the Assets Declaration Branch reflects the judiciary's commitment to upholding integrity, transparency, and good governance within its ranks.

Rain expected in parts of Balochistan as clouds loom over province

QUETTA (6 AM Report) : According to the Regional Meteorological Center Balochistan, partly cloudy weather is expected to prevail across most parts of the province on Friday and Saturday, with chances of rain and thunderstorms at isolated locations.

Areas likely to receive rainfall include Hub, Lasbela, Awaran, Panjgur, Khuzdar, Kalat, Musakhel, Sherani, Ziarat, Barkhan, Kohlu, Kech, and various coastal regions. Thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds may also oc-

cur in some of these locations. Over the past 24 hours, rainfall was recorded in several areas, with Ormara receiving 16.0 mm, Pasni 6.0 mm, and Lasbela 4.0 mm of rain.

Meanwhile, Nokundi registered the highest temperature in the province at a scorching 43.5°C.

The weather department has advised residents, especially in vulnerable and low-lying areas, to stay cautious and follow safety guidelines during thunderstorms and potential rain showers.

NA Speaker calls Israeli atrocities in Gaza a test of world's conscience

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday strongly condemned the brutal aggression of Israeli forces in Gaza and the atrocities being committed against the innocent Palestinian people.

In a statement, he said that since October 7, 2023, more than 60,000 innocent Palestinians have been martyred, including a large number of children, women, and elderly persons. The Speaker said that the occupying Israeli forces have targeted schools, hospitals, places of worship, and refugee camps in Palestine—acts which he described as extremely inhumane and immoral. He further noted that Israel's blockade of life-saving medicines, food, and other humanitarian aid is deeply tragic and shameful.

As a result, thousands of innocent children and elderly people have lost their lives due to hunger and the lack of medical facilities. He stressed that these atrocities against the Palestinian people constitute a blatant

violation of human rights and international law. He added that, as a result of Israeli aggression in Gaza, thousands of children have been orphaned and rendered destitute, while the criminal silence of the international community continues to embolden Israel to commit further brutalities with impunity.

Speaker urged the United Nations to take immediate and practical measures to enforce a ceasefire in Palestine and to ensure a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. He reiterated that Pakistan firmly supports the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. He reaffirmed Pakistan's longstanding position that an independent Palestinian state should be established with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

Speaker also emphasized that the Parliament and people of Pakistan will continue to raise their voice for the Palestinian cause at

GoB expresses grief over tragic Lasbela road accident

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Government of Balochistan has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic road accident that occurred near Lasbela, Othal, claiming several lives and injuring others. In an official statement, government spokesperson Shahid Rind conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and assured them of the government's full support during this difficult time.

"The government stands in solidarity with the bereaved families and shares their pain," said Rind, adding that all injured individuals were swiftly transported to nearby hospitals where they are receiving the best possible medical treatment. According to the spokesperson, the district administration and rescue agencies were immediately directed to begin emergency relief operations. Police and rescue teams responded promptly, transferring both the injured and the deceased to healthcare facilities without delay.

Shahid Rind further stated that a thorough investigation is currently underway to determine the exact cause of the accident. He stressed the urgent need for stricter enforcement of traffic laws to prevent such devastating incidents in the future. Appealing to the public, he urged all citizens to adhere strictly to traffic regulations while traveling on highways to help protect precious human lives.

Power tariff likely to be curtailed by Rs 1.69 per unit

ISLAMABAD (Online): Electricity tariff is likely to be scaled down by Rs 1.69 per unit. As per media reports Power Distribution Companies have filed application with National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) for reduction in power tariff.

This application has been given for reduction under head of Monthly Fuel Price Adjustment for the month of July. NEPRA will hear this application on August 28. If NEPRA approves this application then consumers can get relief in the shape of reduction of power tariff in the next month electricity bills.



QUETTA: A delegation of tribal elite meeting with Advisor to CM for Local Government Nawabzada Ameer Hamza.

Kashmir solution inevitable for peace in South Asia: Noon

JEDDAH (INP): Chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon on Friday said resolution of the Kashmir dispute is inevitable for peace in South Asia. At the event hosted by the Pakistan Consulate General in Jeddah, he reaffirmed Pakistan's continuous moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris till the resolution of the dispute as per UN resolutions and the will of the Kashmiri people.

The Kashmir committee chairman, who held an interactive session with Kashmiri community leaders in Saudi Arabia, provided a comprehensive overview

of the Kashmir issue and developments since the May 2025 war between Pakistan and India. Qasim Noon said that the recent war between Pakistan and India had highlighted the importance of the Kashmir issue to the world. In his remarks, Consular General of Pakistan in Jeddah Khalid Majid highlighted the efforts of the Kashmiri community in the Kingdom for the Kashmir cause. Chairman of Kashmir Committee Jeddah Masood Ahmad Puri and Chairman Jammu Kashmir Overseas Committee (JKCO) Engineer Muhammad Arif Mughal also addressed the gathering and appreciated.