

Five IHC judges submit petitions at Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (INP): Five judges of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) namely Justices Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Babar Sattar, Tariq Mah-mood Jahangiri, Saman Rifat and Arbab Tahir submitted separate petitions at the Supreme Court (SC) on Friday.

In his petition, Justice Kayani requested the SC to declare that administrative powers cannot be used to undermine judges' powers, and that a high court chief justice is not authorised to constitute benches or remove judges from the roster at will. The SC was also urged to declare "that the constitution of benches, transfer of cases and issuance of roster can only be done in accordance with the rules adopted by the entirety of the High Court under Article 202 (rules of procedure), read with Article 192(1) (constitution of high court) of the Constitution". The petition also demanded that the apex court declare that the responsibilities of forming a bench, issuing a roster.

Bugti condemns "cowardly" attack on Durrani and promises swift action

KHUZDAR (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the grenade attack on the residence of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Agha Shakeel Durrani in Khuzdar, terming it a "cowardly act."

He said such incidents cannot break the resolve of the people and their leadership. The Chief Minister expressed prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured and assured that immediate investigations have been launched.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti vowed that those responsible for the attack would be brought to justice and made to face the full force of the law.

GHO attack case: Rawalpindi ATC dismisses plea against Imran's appearance via video link

RAWALPINDI (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi dismissed on Friday the PTI's plea that contested the decision to make incarcerated party founder Imran Khan appear in trial proceedings of the General Headquarters (GHQ) attack case via video link.

Imran's arrest on May 9, 2023 sparked violent protests across the country, during which state buildings and military installations, including the GHQ, were torched and vandalised.

He was expected to attend today's hearing at the ATC via video link, but his counsel argued before Judge Amjad Ali Shah against this arrangement on the PTI's application.

For his part, prosecutor Zaheer Shah contended that trial proceedings were transferred to the ATC from Adiala Jail where Imran is imprisoned on the Punjab government's executive order. "The authority to review the executive order lies with the constitutional court," he added.

He further argued that in 2016, the Code of Criminal Procedure was amended to allow suspects to appear in courts via video link.

Shah also cited Sections 15 and 21 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, saying that they authorised the courts to make "decisions regarding trials". He added that the government was "not obliged" to give a reason for transferring the trial.

The prosecutor said submitting an application against Imran's appearance via video link "is tantamount to creating hurdles in the trial and wasting time".

DG ISPR says:

No separatist movement in Pakistan, only Indian-sponsored terrorism

Lt Gen Ahmed reveals evidence of Indian Army officers' role in terrorism; blames extremist Indian policies, misuse of U.S. weapons in attacks, links Afghan nationals to rising violence

ISLAMABAD (INP): Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, has stated that there is credible evidence of serving Indian Army officers being involved in terrorist activities within Pakistan, under direct state sponsorship.

In an interview with a German magazine, Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif said Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghan refugees for over four decades. He emphasized that Pakistan has made comprehensive arrangements for the dignified and voluntary return of these refugees to their home country. He said that Pakistan extended the deadline for the return of Afghan refugees to their country multiple times on humanitarian grounds. The main reasons for giving refuge to the Afghan refugees were foreign interference and civil war, which no longer exist, he said.

The DG ISPR also highlighted that American weapons abandoned after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan are now being

used in terrorist attacks in Pakistan. He mentioned that the U.S. itself has raised concerns over the misuse of these weapons.

He remarked that there is credible evidence linking illegal Afghan nationals to terrorism and other serious crimes in Pakistan.

Responding to a question, Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif said that the rise in violent incidents in India is a direct result of the Indian government's increasingly extremist policies. India always presents its internal issues as external and external issues as internal problems, he said.

The DG reiterated that India is involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan under state sponsorship, adding that Pakistan possesses clear evidence of serving Indian Army officers' involvement. He noted that Pakistan has presented this evidence to the international community on multiple occasions.

When asked about the Kashmir issue, he urged the international community to play its role in resolving the

longstanding dispute. He emphasized that Pakistan rejects all non-state actors across the board.

He said there is no room for any armed groups in Pakistan, adding that no group or individual other than the state has the authority to declare jihad.

The DG said that Pakistan has not only played the role of a frontline state in the war against terrorism but has also made immense sacrifices.

Speaking about the recent Pakistan-India conflict, referred to as Marka-e-Haq, he noted that former U.S. President Donald Trump played a strategic leadership role. He also highlighted that the U.S. has designated the banned Majid Brigade as a global terrorist organization.

In response to another question, the DG said Pakistan enjoys constructive and strategic relations with its brotherly country, China. He also pointed out that several terrorists killed in operations in Balochistan were previously listed among the so-called "missing persons."



URUMQI: President Asif Ali Zardari visited the Xinjiang Islamic Institute in Ürümqi and appreciated the services being offered by the Institute for Muslims living in the region.

Muqam pledges unwavering support for Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people, stating that the country will continue to extend moral, political, and diplomatic backing until their right to self-determination is realized.

Chairing a high-level meeting, Muqam paid tribute to the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people and expressed deep concern over the alarming security and human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

During the meeting, senior officials provided a comprehensive briefing to the Federal Minister on the law and order situation and ongoing development initiatives in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Muqam emphasized that the development and prosperity of AJK is a top priority for the Federal Government.

He noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the progress of AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan remains a central agenda, adding that this commitment has been consistently demonstrated and will continue in the future.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary and Inspector General of AJK, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan.

President visits Xinjiang Islamic Institute in Ürümqi, lauds services for Muslims

URUMQI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday visited the Xinjiang Islamic Institute in Ürümqi and appreciated the services being offered by the Institute for Muslims living in the region and noted the significance of academic and cultural exchanges in building greater understanding between Pakistan and China.

He was received by Mukhtirei Sifu, President of the Xinjiang Islamic Institute. Mr Sifu explained that the Institute plays a central role in providing structured theological education and training religious scholars, imams and khatibs for service across Xinjiang, a Presidency's news release said.

He highlighted the Institute's efforts to blend religious education with modern learning, noting the importance of preparing students to serve both their faith and society.

The President was informed that the Institute offers courses in Quran,

Hadith, Islamic jurisprudence, Arabic, theology and general subjects including history, computer literacy, ethics and sciences. The curriculum also includes Mandarin Chinese, civil law and regional religious policies. The Institute has the capacity to host around 1,000 students at its main campus, with affiliated institutes in other parts of Xinjiang. Facilities include a central mosque, library, lecture halls, classrooms, dormitories and administrative buildings. Students receive scholarships, housing, meals and stipends during their studies. Since 2001, more than 28,000 graduates of the Institute have gone on to serve in religious, educational and administrative roles across the region. The Institute also contributes to translation and publication of Islamic texts and assists in Hajj logistics. Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Ambassador of Pakistan to China and the Ambassador of China to Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

Pak-Saudi strategic mutual defense agreement not against any third country

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Foreign Office (FO) said on Friday that the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia earlier this week would not be used to threaten any other country.

Pakis-tan and Saudi Arabia entered into a landmark mutual defence agreement, under which any aggression against one state will be considered an attack

on both. The pact was signed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman at the Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh on Wednesday. On Thursday, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif stated in an interview that the pact was defensive in nature.

During a weekly press briefing today, FO spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan



QUETTA: Emir Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti. Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani and Provincial Ameer JI and MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman are also present.

Dar hints other states may follow suit after Pakistan KSA defence deal

LONDON (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday hinted that some countries were showing interest in building strategic defence agreements with Pakistan, following the country's landmark pact with Saudi Arabia.

"It is premature to say something, but after this development, other countries have also expressed a desire for similar arrangements," he said. "But such things follow a due process. Even with Saudi Arabia, it took several months to finalize."

Speaking to reporters in London, Ishaq Dar termed the defence agreement with Saudi Arabia a historic milestone, saying that there had always been informal beliefs among the government and the people of Pakistan regarding the security of Saudi Arabia especially the protection of Harmain Sharifain but this has become formal now after signing of the pact.

Dar noted that both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were satisfied and happy with the agreement, adding that the Kingdom had consistently stood by Pakistan during difficult times. "Saudi Arabia played key role in supporting Pakistan following the international crisis and during the recent economic crisis," he added.

Bilawa says Pak-Saudi defence pact a positive turning point

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari congratulated the Prime Minister and his entire team on successfully reaching a defence agreement with Saudi Arabia, calling it a "positive development" for both nations.

Speaking to the media in Karachi, he said the deal strengthens national security, stating, "an attack on Pakistan will now be seen as an attack on Saudi Arabia." He praised Pakistan's past resilience, recalling that "we faced India and won in war." The PPP chairman expressed hope that the Prime Minister would fulfill his promises regarding speedy development projects in Karachi, and stressed that natural disasters should not be politicized.

Bilawal criticized political opponents for exploiting crises and highlighted the ongoing hardships faced by flood victims across the country, particularly in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, due to historic flooding.

He revealed that he had requested the Prime Minister to provide aid through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and emphasized the urgent need for Pakistan to appeal for international assistance.

GoB taking steps to trained youth to compete at national and global level: CM Bugti

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed his gratitude to the Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer for organizing the IT training program "Bano Qabil Pakistan" and said that the provincial government is taking practical and effective steps to make the youth talented so that they could compete at the national and global level.

The "Bano Qabil Pakistan" program would prove helpful in these steps.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Ameer Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman called on Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti here on Friday here.

Provincial Ameer Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, Central Deputy Secretary General Syed Farasat Shah, Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Imrani, Parliamentary Secretary Mir Abdul Majeed Badini were also present on the occasion.

In the meeting, the political, social and overall situation of Balochistan as well as the technical and educational development of the youth of the province were discussed in detail, while consensus was

reached on comprehensive measures to provide modern IT training to the youth.

He said that the "Youth Skills Development Program" has been launched in Balochistan, under which the first batch of youth has been sent to Saudi Arabia, while the second batch of training is being done for Germany.

The Chief Minister said that development and educational initiatives are being taken forward in the province based on "meritocracy". Under this policy, 16,000 teachers have been recruited in the education department completely on merit.

He said that during the last two years, 3,200 closed schools have been activated, while 485 new community schools have been established in just two months.

Reforms are also being brought in the health sector. With the cooperation of Indus Hospital, four rural hospitals of the province have been equipped with "state-of-the-art" facilities, he noted.

He reaffirmed that in some areas, medical facilities have been provided at the government level for the first time since the establishment of Pakistan which

is a milestone in the history of Balochistan.

Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by the Balochistan government and said that they are ready for every cooperation to further expand IT programs for the youth.

He said that 12,000 youth of Balochistan have been registered under the Bano Qabil Pakistan program so far, which is proof that the youth of the province are ready to realize their potential, we are very excited to highlight the capabilities.

Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman said that the development of Balochistan and equal opportunities in the national mainstream are the need of the hour, Jamaat-e-Islami would play its full role at the federal level in this regard. Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti also hosted a luncheon in honor of the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami and his colleagues on this occasion, in which the provincial leadership of Jamaat-e-Islami, as well as provincial ministers, advisors, parliamentary secretaries and members of the provincial



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel being briefed about Khuzdar University.

Governor stresses skill development to curb unemployment

Skill development seen as key to tackling unemployment, strengthening local economy.

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhel has emphasized the growing importance of modern skills alongside academic degrees in today's fast-paced world.

Speaking at Governor House Quetta during a briefing on Khuzdar Engineering University's performance and future roadmap, the Governor urged the university to design comprehensive skill development programs aimed at equipping unemployed and less-educated youth with modern competencies. He said such initiatives would boost the local economy and significantly reduce unemployment in the province. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Maqsood Ahmed and Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Sohrab Khan Bizenzo were also present at the briefing.

Governor Mandokhel stressed that university education and degrees would only be truly valuable if aligned with ground realities. "The time demands that we turn our youth from mere consumers into producers," he remarked. He also directed the university leadership to ensure merit, transparency, and quality in all academic and administrative affairs, which he said would enhance standards and benefit students more effectively.

Highlighting the need for stronger academia-industry linkages, the Governor added that the government alone cannot provide jobs to millions. "We must strengthen the private sector, while the government should facilitate businesses so they can play a key role in addressing unemployment," he concluded.

Pakistan extends airspace ban on Indian airlines till Oct 23

ISLAMABAD (UNA): Pakistan has extended its airspace ban for all Indian-registered and Indian-operated aircraft, including military planes, for another month, the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) said on Friday.

According to a new NOTAM (Notice to Airmen), the restriction bars Indian commercial airlines, India-registered aircraft, and military flights from entering Pakistani airspace.

Pakistan closed its airspace for Indian airlines in a tit-for-tat move after New Delhi suspended the critical Indus Water Treaty amid heightened bilateral tensions following the deadly Pahalgam attack in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Following Pakistan's decision, India shut its airspace to Pakistani airlines on April 30. Pakistan's initial restriction was extended on May 23 for another month.

"long and distinguished history of brotherhood and cooperation".

"[The] Pakistan-Saudi Arabia bilateral relationship is unique, enduring and multifaceted," Khan outlined. "The leadership of the two countries share the common vision to take it to new heights."

"The relationship lives in the hearts of the people of [the] two countries."

From July 2022 to June 2025, SPSC conducted 109 written examinations for 4,743 posts, in addition

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Pakistan, Saudi Arabia ink defense deal

The recent defense agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia marks a true milestone in the history of bilateral relations between the two brotherly nations. This pact is not merely about defense cooperation; it injects fresh energy into an age-old bond and lays the foundation for peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

History has repeatedly shown that Saudi Arabia has stood by Pakistan in times of political, economic, and security challenges. Today, this partnership once again demonstrates the sincerity and depth of Riyadh’s support for Islamabad. The agreement is expected to modernize Pakistan’s defense structure in line with contemporary needs while also having far-reaching economic and diplomatic benefits. It positions Pakistan as a more stable and balanced force both in the region and on the global stage.

What makes this development truly significant is that the people of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share not only strategic and economic ties but also a deep bond of faith, culture, and shared heritage. This gives the agreement a spirit that transcends paper and signatures, turning it into a symbol of eternal brotherhood and trust.

Looking ahead, Pakistan must ensure that this cooperation is not confined to defense alone. The partnership should expand into areas such as economic collaboration, energy projects, technological exchange, and human resource development. Such a comprehensive approach can unlock sustainable prosperity for both nations.

The Pakistan-Saudi alliance is also a message for the wider Muslim world: when the Ummah unites in trust and cooperation, it not only strengthens itself internally but also gains the ability to play a dignified and influential role on the global stage.

Doing something good

Ashraf Jehangir Qazi

To be weak is to be wrong/
To be right is not enough/
To be good/ You need to be strong.

We are at a turning point of regional and global history because of several seminal developments. The moral, institutional, political, and economic degeneration of the US. The berserk aggression of Israel, which has finally destroyed the credibility of the US as a force for regional and international stability.

The realisation among Arab elites that they can no longer rely on a trade-off between national humiliation and external protection against Arab streets. China’s recognition that its diplomacy will not significantly postpone a day of reckoning with a fearful and implacable US. The emergence of a vast Afro-Asian Muslim playground waiting to be co-opted by the East as deliverance from the West. India’s failure to transition from regional power status to international power status, and become a credible partner for the US against China.

Above all, climate change in the Anthropocene age, in which human activity becomes a principal determinant of the rate of global warming and the fate of plant and animal species, including human beings. Because of the irresponsibility of the principal industrial powers, climate change will shortly become irreversible.

Management of and adaptation to climate change may at most delay, but not avert the demise of human civilisation — possibly within this century. As a result, Noam Chomsky observed that far from the noblest of God’s creatures, mankind will be the stupidest and most short-lived of animal species.

All of the above is reflected in the last reset of the Doomsday Clock, which at 89 seconds to ‘midnight’, is the closest yet to doomsday. The next

reset next January will be even closer.

This is the global context in which we are today witnessing the culmination of a century-long genocidal process against the trapped and defenceless Palestinian people. This unparalleled crime against humanity was initiated by Imperial Britain, and is culminating in the comprehensive connivance of the US. If, God forbid, Palestine dies, the Arab and Muslim world will face a colossal moral and civilisational failure, which it may not survive. The genocidal policy of the US and Israel has made the two-state solution for Palestine, as mandated by the UN, impossibly to achieve. Accordingly, Israel has forfeited the right to exist.

The only just solution now is the liberation of the State of Palestine in which people of all faiths who have the right to be there — including all Palestinians who have an internationally recognised right of return — are encouraged and assisted to live together in harmony, peace and justice.

All other proposed solutions to the Palestinian tragedy have been rendered impossible by the violence, greed, guilt and hypocrisy of the US and its European allies, in support of the rabid racism of the criminal and illegitimate State of Israel. What is to be done? What can be done? How can it be done? Where do we begin? If answers to such questions regarding the genocide in Palestine can be agreed upon and implemented, it will be possible to similarly address other challenges that in greater or lesser measure threaten the future of humanity.

What is to be done? What can be done? How can it be done? Where do we begin?

Historically, power systems have always opposed the implementation of sensible and practical answers to such questions. This has been

the warp and woof of human history. The finest brains have been selected to conjure up appealing or convincing reasons for such perversity. The difference today is that mankind has the capacity to destroy itself. The stakes are globally existential.

Alex Carey noted that ‘grass-roots’ propaganda is designed to sway the masses through their beliefs, fears and prejudices, as well as their ignorance which is sustained by the social system in which they are confined. ‘Tree-top’ propaganda, on the contrary, is designed to comfort the upper- and middle-class intelligentsia who like to see themselves as decent human beings while serving the avarice and rapacity of their masters, who similarly wish to see themselves in a benevolent light. The comprador intellectual, whatever his or her profession, is accordingly among the vilest of social beings.

Nevertheless, Chomsky suggests there are things that can be done to make a difference. One is for concerned people “not to be passive and quiescent” and to make life uncomfortable for exploiting elites and their cohorts who wish to preserve a decent opinion of themselves.

Just persistently asking questions in all kinds of forums can be effective. Being a pest can also make a significant contribution. But he also notes that whatever one does should be done consistently.

Power systems do not mind occasional protesters. In fact, they welcome them as proof of their tolerance and respect for free speech. Ajihad or struggle has to be an organised and sustained learning process for it to be meaningful and ultimately successful.

And this is where the men are distinguished from the boys. And this is also where women are often ‘more men’ than most men. They “hold up half

the sky”, according to Mao. That is why they are taught by men — and unfortunately but understandably often enough by their mothers — to see their world in the household and virtue in obedience, tolerance, and suffering. Those women who excel in these docile qualities are worshipped by men — largely in the abstract.

Men never seem to ask why God gave human intelligence to women if it was superfluous, even when they rightly suspect women are wiser, stronger, and braver than them. To sum up, starting with turning points, I focused on Palestine, asked questions, quoted Chomsky and Carey, and paid due homage to women. Good things can lead to more good things. So let us begin by feeling uncomfortable about the prevailing situation at home and abroad. That might lead to reflection, anger, action and eventually deliverance from climate catastrophe and political evil. Let us then resolve to keep doing something good for Pakistan, our only country, and for Earth, our Mother Planet.

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Silencing women

Rabiya Javeri Agha

The ‘madwoman in the attic’ motif has been studied, romanticised, reimagined. Yet she has always been misunderstood. She was never mad. She was simply a woman whose existence became intolerable, not because she lost her mind, but because she refused to lose herself.

In Pakistan today, that same refusal is enough to erase adult women from their own lives. Teachers. Lawyers. Executives. Mothers. Daughters. All over the age of consent. All locked away in psychiatric and rehabilitation facilities against their will. They are not confined because they are dangerous to themselves or others. They are confined because they said no: no to marriage, no to silence, no to families who demand obedience above all else.

In many ‘rehab homes’ across Pakistan, there is no psychiatric protocol, no independent evaluation, no court order. A family member signs a form, pays a fee and the woman simply disappears. Once inside, the clinic becomes a carceral space. Phones are seized. Visitors barred. Came-ras trail their every move. Psychotropic drugs are dispensed without explanation. Refusal is punished with sedation. Protest is reclassified as pathology. Anger is not recognised as resistance but proof of illness. Staff call it treatment. Families call it discipline. In truth, it is punishment dressed as psychology.

The medical files of these women rarely contain a genuine diagnosis. Instead, they are filled with ‘evidence’ of disobedience. At admission, dubious lab reports brand them as users of ice or meth, yet no drug treatment follows. The only ‘therapy’ is coerced apology letters and forced compliance.

Women are taught to doubt their own memories. They are coached to smile for videos sent home, to stage obedience as evidence of ‘recovery’. There is no diagnosis, only correction.

The National Commission for Human Rights

has received numerous complaints of forced detention in rehab clinics, where women were locked away for disobedience, refusal to marry, or simply for not vacating family property. Four of these women were found illegally detained in one clinic outside Islamabad from where they were rescued. The facility, registered with the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA), operates in open violation of its mandate. Standards and SOPs are ignored with impunity, while the regulator looks the other way. Misogyny runs through its practices. Profiteering is packaged as treatment. Abuse is routine.

It is punishment dressed as psychology.

In one case, we received a desperate call about a woman who had been confined for nine days in one clinic. The woman was a 35-year-old executive with an MPhil degree. She was sane, articulate — and terrified — when we freed her. Her only ‘offence’ was refusing to marry the man her parents had chosen. A local psychologist had ‘diagnosed’ her defiance as ‘depression’, giving medical cover to parental coercion and captivity.

That mental health facilities can serve as accomplices in the abduction of healthy adult women exposes the rot at the heart of Pakistan’s mental health and so-called rehabilitation system. On paper, there are laws, SOPs and guidelines to prevent involuntary commitment, regulate private clinics and ensure review and release. In practice, they are ignored. Oversight is absent. Accountability is non-existent.

These concerns have been raised with the IHRA and a commission hearing has been held. Survivors have testified before officials about the abuse endured. IHRA has pledged to act, but a reply is still awaited.

Our Constitution guarantees right to life, dignity and equality before the law. The right to health — including mental health — flows from these guarantees. Yet Pakistan lacks a comprehensive mental

Tide of discontent

Tariq Khosa

It is an era of epic absurdity. A new world (dis)order is leading to conflicts, violence and wars. A tide of discontent is sweeping across the globe. South Asia is no exception. The recent state of turbulence can be traced back to the year 2022. Sri Lanka witnessed mob violence and anger amidst an economic meltdown. The presidential compound was taken over by a mob. Essentially, it was a strong and violent reaction to elite capture, inequality and injustice. The youth were in the vanguard of the movement for change. The Sri Lankan army helped defuse the situation by nudging political and institutional stakeholders to find a solution through a fair electoral process for change in accordance with the wishes of the true sovereign, ie, the people of Sri Lanka. The country’s armed forces supported a democratic process to resolve the crisis. The resultant election, generally perceived as fair, brought a new and younger leadership to power. The people who voted broke the shackles of dynastic politics. It was an attempt to restore order by following the will of the people.

Bangladesh was next. After transitioning from military rule, it was thought that democracy would be sustained through a fair electoral process. The dream went sour. The founding father’s party, which had been ruling for almost 15 years, was removed through a strong protest movement primarily led by students. Angry youth turned violent when the state apparatus resorted to coercive tactics. A recruitment quota issue regarding preferential treatment for the ruling junta became a bone of contention. Peaceful protests turned violent when the state used brutal force. The Rapid Action Battalion, a central civil armed force, like the FSF of the 1970s in Pakistan, was unleashed to quell the disturbances. Police were the main instrument of state oppression, injuring and killing protesters, knowing they had the blessings of the ruling elite. Hundreds of youngsters lost their lives in a matter of weeks. It was mayhem. The armed forces could not

stay aloof. Although the army chief was a relative of and appointed by the besieged prime minister, he wisely managed her resignation, while providing her a safe passage to India. The army command consulted the student leaders, and the reins of power during the transition stage were handed over to Dr Muhammad Yunus, the widely respected octogenarian Nobel laureate. A cabinet of technocrats and professionals is in charge of steering the nation towards the democratic process, with elections planned for next February. It remains to be seen whether the political process will be affected by the banning of a major political party from contesting the elections.

Nepal is the latest. The outrage there was sparked by a social media ban. A peaceful protest by Gen Z turned violent on Sept 8-9 and mobs set fire to parliament and court buildings. The homes of cabinet ministers were attacked and vandalised. Scores of people died; hundreds were injured. The young people’s frustration had been building for a long time against the perceived lack of action by successive governments to tackle corruption and boost economic opportunities.

The rest-less youth shook the political order. The armed forces tried to restore order, with the leaders of agitating students in touch with the military command to put in place a credible and competent caretaker administration and steer the nation towards democratic good governance. The Inter-national Crisis Group called it a “major inflection point in the country’s uneasy experience with de-mocratic rule”. It is yet another test case of dealing with the crisis in accordance with the true aspirations of the people. This paper has cautioned other countries in the region to “be wise to see in Nepal not chaos to dismiss, but a warning to heed”.

This brings us to Pakistan. Should we heed a warning and learn lessons from turbulence in our region? Is our romance with democracy over? Are we content with the current hybrid dispensation? The elections in February 2024

were perceived to be blatantly rigged, thus casting justifiable doubts over the present ruling coalition’s legitimacy. Parliament is an instrument to rubber-stamp legislation influenced by unelected stakeholders. Critics say that the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment exposed behind-the-scenes manoeuvres. The reputation of the judiciary as an independent institution and a guardian of citizens’ fundamental rights has been undermined. The Election Commission, it seems, has no autonomy. The National Accountability Bureau is an instrument of political victimisation. Bureau-cracy, instead of being the steel frame of our administration, comprises mostly pliant officers, willing to fulfil all the improper demands of the rulers. They act like courtiers in the durbars of the ruling dynasties. The police are generally going through the worst phase of high-handedness and are perceived as blatantly misusing their authority. Should we not heed a warning and learn lessons from turbulence in our region?

The ruling dispensation should get out of the complacency trap. The veil has been lifted by a recent eye-opening report by Amnesty International about how deeply deployed the mass surveillance system is in Pakistan, thanks to technology provided by foreign companies. Titled Shadows of Control, the report sheds light on our censorship regime, with virtually no transparency or judicial oversight. There is constant “snooping on the lives of ordinary citizens”, says Amnesty. This dystopian reality is extremely dangerous. The undercurrents of resentment and discontent cannot be ignored by those who are currently at the helm. The aspirations of Pakistan’s young people need to be fulfilled. They want to be treated well by the state. It is their right to have dignity, respect and honour as citizens. It is the duty of the state not to deny them these rights. Suffocation can lead to explosion. Let them breathe. The current governance roadmap being followed must be redrawn to ensure equity and inclusivity.

Floods and healthcare

Zafar Mirza

Devastating floods are now an annual emergency in Pakistan. Climate change is hitting hard, manifesting in new weather patterns including cloudbursts. Sudden torrential rainfall, which continues relentlessly, can literally move mountains. This phenomenon was observed in many places in the northern parts of the country. The gushing water sweeps away boulders, trees, soil and everything else in its way, including houses, vehicles and livestock. Witnessing the aftermath of one such cataclysmic event in Qadir Nagar in Buner was an unforgettable experience, as was meeting an old man there who had lost 31 members of his family in the Aug 15 cloudburst.

The people’s suffering during the floods is manifold, immediate and long-term, direct and indirect. Suddenly, everything is washed away, sometimes even loved ones, and, in many cases, livelihoods. They are uprooted from their homes and communities; they get separated from their loved ones, and there is no longer any social support network. As a result, they undergo extreme mental stress and, in many cases, suffer physically.

Hence, any emergency response during the flood season has a healthcare component. In order to organise a suitable healthcare response, it is important to understand what afflicts people most frequently during the floods.

In general, there are five groups of medical and healthcare problems during the floods, and healthcare provision should be planned accordingly.

Five groups of healthcare problems are observed during floods.

The first set of problems is seen immediately after the onset of the floods. These challenges are of an acute nature and require an immediate medical response.

They include mild to serious injuries, which are caused by people struggling to save themselves from drowning, hypothermia due to prolonged submergence in water, injuries due to the collapse of buildings and infrastructure, and snakebites. All this requires

first aid and shifting the more seriously injured to the appropriate health facilities. Some of them may require minor or even major surgeries.

The second group follows the first, ie, the spread of waterborne diseases, including but not limited to diarrhoea (especially among children), cholera, typhoid and hepatitis E. Malaria and dengue also spread during this time due to stagnant pools of water. Allergic skin rashes and scabies are common as well. The provision of safe drinking water and food is critical not only for hydration and nutritional purposes but also to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. Along with that, hand washing, sanitation and other infection prevention and control measures should be promoted among the people.

With an increasing number of environmental samples testing positive for poliovirus and the growing number of polio cases in the north, there is a need to carry out special polio vaccination campaigns in the flood-affected areas as and when possible. Under unsanitary conditions, poliovirus can contaminate food and water. Likewise, the cholera vaccination should be considered to control likely outbreaks. An outbreak of measles must also be anticipated in camps.

The third group is composed of flood-affected people whose healthcare has often been ignored. These people were already suffering from chronic health conditions. Their healthcare is further disrupted due to the flood emergency. Chronic conditions, or non-communicable diseases, usually require lifelong treatment. Diabetes, in particular, needs to be mentioned. Insulin and other antidiabetic medicines are a lifeline for patients with diabetes. Likewise, patients of blood pressure, with chronic respiratory problems, require medications to be continued.

The fourth group of problems consists of mental health issues, which make up another, often ignored, and, unfortunately, stigmatised category. The stress of loss causes anxiety and depression. Mental health support to the

flood-affected must be planned as part of the medical response and should not be an afterthought or relegated to non-essential care. Trained mental health professionals should be part of the medical team. Post-traumatic stress disorder is the most commonly occurring condition, and must be handled with care.

The fifth category consists of vulnerable groups and their special needs. Pregnant women, young children, old women and men, and persons with disabilities — all require special and prioritised attention to their condition and needs in times of emergency.

These five sets of problems can guide the selection of medicines and other medical supplies and composition of the healthcare teams — including those with mental health training.

A well-meaning but ill-informed healthcare response as part of the overall emergency response can be insufficient, even counterproductive. It is not just about providing medicines doled out by laymen to unsuspecting people, who may only suffer their side effects. Planning healthcare for the flood-affected people requires not only medical (curative) services but also equally important preventive, promotive and rehabilitative health services.

Indiscriminate medicine donations by families and pharmaceutical companies can sometimes create more problems than they solve. There is a lot of international experience of bad medical donations during times of emergency, which cannot be used. Eventually, they have to be disposed of, which is also a challenge.

The WHO has developed, and has been supplying, a number of standard emergency health kits. Over the years, the agency has improved these kits, learning from emergency experiences around the world.

Of special relevance is their Interagency Emergency Health Kit, which can serve the medical needs of 10,000 people for three months. Another one is the Cholera Kit-2020, which can serve the needs of 100 patients.

Laghari launches reforms to build competitive electricity market in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Energy, Sardar Awais Ahmad Laghari, has reaffirmed the government's determination to establish a transparent and competitive electricity market, declaring that the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contracts Market (CTBCM) reforms are a guarantee of Pakistan's energy future.

He made these remarks while virtually addressing a stakeholder workshop on the CTBCM and Wheeling Auctions Framework, organized by the Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) in Islamabad.

The workshop brought together regulators, industry experts, power sector professionals, and consumer representatives to discuss structural reforms in the electricity market.

The minister emphasized that the government is committed to tapping renewable and environment-

friendly sources of energy in order to improve overall sustainability while meeting the nation's power needs.

He noted that the integration of renewables is a top priority and will not only strengthen energy security but also support the export sector with affordable and clean electricity.

Laghari announced the introduction of a Wheeling Auction Framework for 800 MW demand, enabling large industrial consumers to procure power directly at competitive rates.

He said the measure would reduce costs, create jobs, and promote industrial growth.

The minister underlined that the CTBCM is the outcome of years of planning and will foster transparency, efficiency, and competition, while attracting much-needed investment into the power sector.

ISMO officials briefed participants on the mechan-

ics of CTBCM, including market registration, contract compliance, capacity obligations, and the handling of imbalances and marginal pricing.

Updates were also shared on supplier rules, the National Electricity Plan, and auction guidelines designed to ensure fair competition.

A panel discussion titled "CTBCM – Opportunities and Challenges" allowed regulators, energy professionals, and consumer representatives to deliberate on technological advancements in wheeling, bulk power procurement, and mechanisms to ensure transparency.

The session was followed by interactive Q&A segments, giving stakeholders the chance to directly engage with ISMO officials on technical and regulatory matters.

Laghari stressed that reforms are essential for both economic progress and public welfare.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan chaired a high-level Meeting with TUSDEC and PITAC.

SAPM chairs meeting to boost industrial, tech innovation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Friday chaired a meeting with the CEOs of Technology Upgradation and Skill Development Company (TUSDEC) and Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC).

During the meeting, he assigned key tasks to TUSDEC, including the establishment of a Mining and Mineral Processing Technology Center, a Women Digital Skills Development Center, and an Artificial Intelligence and Digital Twin Center in line with the vision of prime minister to advance Pakistan's technological and

industrial landscape, said a news release.

He further highlighted that seafood processing, packaging, and storage plants, along with modern abattoirs and meat processing facilities, will be developed across the country.

He emphasized that PITAC and TUSDEC must learn from advanced international models and replicate such skills and technologies in Pakistan.

Referring to his recent international visit, SAPM said "I have seen advanced Artificial Intelligence institutes in developed countries. PITAC must learn from them and bring those skills to Pakistan."

"Artificial Intelligence is progressing rapidly

worldwide, and Pakistan must keep pace with this global transformation."

"In Uzbekistan's Techno Park, innovative ideas such as solar water heaters and prepaid gas and electricity billing systems were impressive. Such initiatives should also be adopted in Pakistan," Haroon added.

The SAPM also announced the establishment of a Research and Development Center in Gujranwala to strengthen industrial innovation and growth.

Acknowledging PITAC's efforts, he appreciated the introduction of modern skill training and English language courses for students to enhance their competitiveness in the global job market.

progressing rapidly



URUMQI: President Asif Ali Zardari witnessing the signing of an MoU between Mr Wang Shanpu, Chairman of Luoyang Modern Biology Group, and Mr Nasir Hussain Shah, Provincial Minister for Energy, Development and Planning, Government of Sindh, to promote modern livestock industry technologies and enhance collaboration on disease prevention and vaccines.

Finance Minister, GB CM discuss tourism and infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan on Friday held a meeting to review infrastructure, tourism, and development initiatives in the region.

During the meeting, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb recalled his recent visit to Gilgit-Baltistan and discussed the ongoing flood situation and related relief efforts, including release of federal funds, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

He lauded the progress made in road infrastructure and investments in tourism, noting

that the region is endowed with immense natural beauty and holds huge potential for tourism-led growth.

The Minister emphasized responsible investment with strict adherence to building regulations and environmental laws, particularly in the areas of waste and water management to preserve the local ecosystem.

He encouraged the Gilgit-Baltistan government to explore new revenue-generation avenues and underlined the need to develop airport and road infrastructure as well as tourism spots to promote package tourism, especially for visitors from Gulf countries.

Raja Pervaz visits Chinot Chamber of Commerce, distributes relief materials

CHINIOT (APP): Former Prime Minister Raja Pervaz Ashraf on Friday visited the Chinot Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he congratulated the chamber's leaders, including Group Leader Haji Muhammad Naem Fakhri and President Fahad Naem Fakhri, on their success.

Ashraf praised the region's furniture manufacturing industry, which has earned a global reputation.

During his visit, he met with the newly elected President of the Furniture Association, Qaiser Shahzad Hambar, and acknowledged the business community's efforts.

Ashraf's visit focused on providing relief to flood

victims in Chinot. He distributed relief materials among the affected people and inspected flood-affected areas with Syed Inayat Ali Shah and Syed Hassan Murtaza. The former prime minister also highlighted the devastating impact of the floods on local farmers, whose land, livestock, and homes were severely damaged.

He strongly emphasized the need for immediate assistance to alleviate their suffering.

During his visit, Pervaz Ashraf mentioned that Bilawal Bhutto had requested the Prime Minister to waive electricity bills for flood victims and provide them with necessary support.

Traders' representative cabinet to be announced soon in Balochistan: Kashif

Business community grappling with power cuts, heavy taxes, inflation; charter of demands in final stages

QUETTA (ANN) – Central spokesperson of All Pakistan Traders Organization, Balochistan chapter, Kashif Haidari, announced that the long-awaited representative provincial cabinet for traders will be unveiled soon.

Speaking during his visit to Karachi where he met various business leaders, Haidari said that consultations have entered the decisive phase to ensure the provincial cabinet is not symbolic but a truly effective and balanced body representing traders from across the province.

He highlighted that traders in Balochistan are facing immense hardships due to unannounced load-shedding, heavy taxation, high interest rates, and rising inflation, while the government has yet to take practical steps to address these issues.

"The announcement of the cabinet will be accompanied by a comprehensive strategy and a charter of demands," Haidari said, adding that the document will focus on tax reforms, resolving the energy crisis, a business-friendly budget, and market stability.

He stressed that traders are the backbone of the economy but continue to suffer injustices. "It is time their voice is no longer ignored. If the government fails to take immediate measures, the traders' body will have no choice but to adopt a protest strategy," he warned.

Haidari assured that the upcoming provincial cabinet announcement would not be a mere list of names but a historic step toward protecting traders' rights and securing their rightful place in society.

SBP injects over Rs 11.386trln in the market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs 11,386.05 billion through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operations (OMO), on Friday, to maintain liquidity in the market.

The central bank conducted the Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) for 7 and 14 day tenors on September 19, 2025 and injected Rs 11,032.05 billion against 37 quotes while another Rs 354 billion were inserted through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based OMO.

For the Reverse Repo Purchase, SBP received 21 bids for the 7-day tenor cumulatively offering Rs 2,232.05 billion at the rate of return ranging between 11.01% to 11.09%. The central bank accepted the entire amount at 11.01% rate of return.

Moreover, the SBP also received 17 bids for the 14-day tenor cumulatively offering Rs 9,096.45 billion at the rate of return ranging between 10.95 to 11.10%. The SBP accepted Rs 8,800 billion against 16 quotes at 11.01% rate of return. The total amount offered at 11.01% was Rs 4,877 billion, out of which SBP accepted Rs 4,750.55 billion on the pro-rata basis.

Pervaiz Malik chairs meeting on streamlined RLNG connection drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik reviewed a comprehensive rollout plan on Friday for providing Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) connections to domestic consumers.

The meeting, chaired by the minister, was attended by the Secretary of Petroleum, the Additional Secretary, the Director General of Gas, representatives of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), and the Managing Directors of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL).

During the meeting, the Managing Directors of SNGPL and SSGCL presented a detailed strategy for the effective implementation of the government's directive, said a news release.

They informed the Minister that an ambitious target of providing new RLNG domestic connections within the first year will be set.

To ensure maximum public facilitation and transparency, the application process for these connections will be significantly streamlined.

Consumers will be

able to apply online through the official websites and mobile applications of the Sui companies, in addition to the traditional method of applying at their local offices.

Ali Pervaiz Malik directed the management of both gas utilities to formulate a robust and consumer-friendly mechanism to ensure the seamless facilitation of the public.

He emphasized that this initiative is the priority of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to meet the growing public demand for clean and affordable energy.

"This step is being taken to fulfil the long-standing demand of the public for the provision of new domestic gas connections," the Minister said.

"Shifting to RLNG is not only a move towards energy efficiency but also provides significant economic relief to households. RLNG is approximately 30% cheaper than LPG and is also a safer fuel option for domestic use," he added. To ensure effective oversight and timely execution of this massive public welfare project, the Federal Minister directed the immediate creation of a dedicated Project Management Office (PMO) at both SNGPL and SSGCL.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Ali Pervaiz Malik, chairing a meeting to review the comprehensive roll-out plan for providing RLNG connections to domestic users across the country.

Gold prices decline by Rs.1,100 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,100 to Rs.387,500 per tola on Friday compared to Rs.388,600 on the last trading day, according to All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also went down by Rs.943 to Rs.332,218 from Rs.333,161, whereas 10 gram 22 karat gold dropped to Rs.304,544 from yesterday's Rs.305,408, showing decline of Rs.864.

In the international market, the rate of gold declined by \$11 to \$3,657 per ounce against \$3,668 on the previous day.

On the other hand, the price of silver registered an increase.

Hanif announces key steps for Pakistan Railways' revival

LAHORE (INP): Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Friday stated that despite limited resources, Pakistan Railways is progressing steadily due to strong commitment and effective planning.

He expressed confidence that the public will soon witness visible improvements in the railway sector.

Chairing a high-level meeting at Pakistan Railways Headquarters, the Minister oversaw several key decisions aimed at reforming and modernizing the system.

One of the major decisions was the outsourcing of passenger trains through an open auction, including the review of contracts signed under

this model. The meeting also approved the revision of annual revenue benchmarks for trains, for which a special committee has been formed.

To strengthen safety protocols, the Safety Department has been upgraded to a full-fledged Directorate, with new postings of officers and staff to enhance its effectiveness.

The Minister received a comprehensive briefing on the condition of guards' and drivers' running rooms, emphasizing that "Guards and Drivers are the backbone of Pakistan Railways."

He directed the immediate upgradation of facilities at Rohri, Khanpur, and Khanewal, including air-conditioning, kitchens, and common dining halls.

Gwadar to get marine innovation lab for fishing and boat industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Gwadar is set to witness a major leap in its marine economy as the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has announced to establish a state-of-the-art Marine Innovation Lab at its Precision System Training Centre (PSTC).

The initiative is aimed at introducing high-tech boat manufacturing and modernizing the city's traditional fishing industry, regarded as the backbone of local livelihoods, said a press release.

According to official

documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the proposed Marine Innovation Lab will focus on building CNC precision and composite boats, along with developing sustainable fiberglass boats through computer numerical control (CNC) technology.

By integrating advanced manufacturing with local craftsmanship, the facility is expected to provide a major boost to Gwadar's fishing sector and maritime economy.

The planned expansion comes as part of PSTC's broader mission to

create a skilled workforce for Gwadar's emerging industries under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Established through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between PCSIR and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), the centre has already started producing trained manpower to meet industrial demands.

At present, a total of 68 students from less-developed areas of Balochistan are enrolled at the Gwadar training facility.



HYDERABAD: A motorcyclist transporting packets of chips and snacks on his bike at Latifabad.

Kitchen items' prices ease by 1.34 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), recorded a decrease of 1.34 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on September 18, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 330.84 points against 335.35 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 4.17 percent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-

16=100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs17,732 decreased by 1.43 percent, going down to 322.71 points from last week's 327.39 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs17,733-22,888; Rs22,889-29,517; Rs29,518-44,175 and above Rs44,175 also decreased by 1.59 percent, 1.34 percent, 1.31 percent and 1.23 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 18 (35.29 percent) items increased, 14 (27.45 percent) items decreased and 19 (37.26 percent) items remained stable.

Turkmenistan Investment Forum opens in Awaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Turkmenistan Investment Forum (TIF 2025) officially opened in the National Tourist Zone "Awaza" to bring the Foreign Direct Investment in the country.

This large-scale event, aimed at attracting foreign investment, brought together more than 800 delegates from 45 countries.

Among the participants were high-ranking government officials, heads of leading international corporations, executives of investment banks, and prominent experts, said a press release issued by Embassy of Turkmenistan on Friday.

The Forum was inaugurated with an address by the President of Turkmenistan, Serdar Berdimuhamedov, delivered on his behalf by the Minister of Finance and

Economy. The key event of the opening day was the plenary session titled "Investment Attractiveness of Turkmenistan as a Factor of Strategic Efficiency."

The session was moderated by Dmitry Shlapachenko, UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan.

Distinguished international experts delivered keynote speeches, including Ms. Beatriz Luz Maser Mallor, Executive Director of the World Bank, and Ms. Rabab Fatima, UN Under-Secretary-General.

In her remarks, Ms. Rabab Fatima highly commended Turkmenistan's leadership in advancing the interests of landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and presented new UN initiatives aimed at mobilizing investments.

Balochistan's youth need education, not military operations: Hafiz Naeem

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has said that the youth of Balochistan seek progress through education and skills, not military operations.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Bano Qabil program at Ayub Stadium Quetta on Friday, he stressed that the future of Pakistan depends on empowering its young generation through knowledge, particularly in information technology.

Thousands of boys and girls appeared in entry tests to enroll in free IT courses under Bano Qabil, an initiative of Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan.

Speaking to the participants, Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman declared that those who conspire against the state or wish to see Pakistan broken should understand that Jamaat-e-Islami

will stand firm to protect the country. "Pakistan was founded on an ideology, and we are its guardians," he said.

He urged the government to shift its focus from controversial mineral contracts towards investing in education, training, and IT development. "By equipping our youth with digital skills, we can boost IT exports and bring prosperity," he added. Rehman further emphasized that Pakistan belongs to its people, not to any ruling elite.

The JI chief demanded peace, basic facilities, and the removal of decades-old deprivations in Balochistan, saying the province's progress is essential for the prosperity of the entire nation. Criticizing the electoral system, he said rulers are imposed on the people, while only two JI members in the Balochistan Assembly

came through genuine Form-45 votes. He called for free and fair opportunities for the people to choose their true representatives.

Highlighting the recent long march led by JI Balochistan Emir Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman for provincial rights, Rehman praised the support shown by the people of Punjab. He announced that JI would present the case of Balochistan and oppressed communities nationwide at its historic public gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan in November, inviting the people of Balochistan to participate.

He also condemned Israeli atrocities in Gaza under American patronage, calling on Pakistanis to unite against global oppressors and their local collaborators.

Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman also spoke on occasion.



QUETTA: Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addressing Bano Qabil scholarship program event.

Politics is a path of service, not power: Sadiq Umrani

Naseerabad's people are my true strength; canal restoration and farmers' welfare top priorities

QUETTA (ANN) — Balochistan's Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Khan Umrani, has said that politics should never be a means of personal gain or power, but rather a path of public service. Speaking to various delegations in his office on Friday, he emphasized that every step of his political journey is dedicated to the welfare, progress, and prosperity of the people.

"My strength lies in the people of Naseerabad. Humility is my greatest ornament, and service is the identity of my politics," he remarked. Umrani added

that his vision centers on making people's lives easier by providing employment opportunities to youth, irrigation water to farmers, healthcare to patients, and education to children. "For me, public service is not power, but worship," he noted.

Highlighting his department's achievements, Umrani said that under his leadership the Irrigation Department has revived canals in Naseerabad after decades, repaired old schemes, and ensured that new water channels deliver water to the tail end.

Protection of Harmain Sharifain an Honor for Pakistan: Noor Dumar

Provincial Food Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dumar welcomes Pakistan-Saudi strategic agreement, calls it pride for the nation

QUETTA (6 AM Report) — Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) central leader and Balochistan's Provincial Food Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dumar has said that safeguarding the

sanctity of Harmain Sharifain is a matter of great honor for Pakistan.

Speaking on Thursday, he welcomed the recently signed Pakistan-Saudi Arabia strategic agreement.



PISHIN: Deputy Commissioner Mansoor Ahmed Qazi listening to the problem Afghan refugees during returning to their homeland at Afghan refugee camp in Tehsil Saranan.

DC Mansoor Assures Full Support for Returning Afghan Refugees

Facilities, transport and dignified repatriation pledged under government policy

PISHIN (By Mohib Tareen): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mansoor Ahmed Qazi has said that the district administration is extending all possible co-operation and facilities to Afghan brothers and sisters returning to their homeland, while taking steps within its capacity to address the challenges they face. He expressed these views during his visit to the Afghan refugee camp in Tehsil Saranan, where he interacted with the refugees. Wing Commander Fakhrudin Khan and Assistant Commissioner Naimatullah Tareen also accompanied him.

The DC said that efforts for the dignified and respectful repatriation of Afghan refugees would

continue, adding that no government official or individual would be allowed to harm their dignity.

During the visit, Afghan elders highlighted the shortage of transport facilities. Taking immediate notice, the DC assured them of transport provision to ensure their smooth and honorable return. The Afghan residents welcomed the prompt initiative of the district administration and assured cooperation for early repatriation.

DC Qazi instructed that during the repatriation process, special care must be taken for Afghan women, children, elderly persons, and their belongings, ensuring that their dignity is never compromised.

FIA arrests human smuggler, 14 afghan nationals in Quetta

QUETTA (UNA): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Anti-Human Trafficking Circle conducted an operation in Quetta, arresting an alleged smuggling agent, Asadullah, along with 14 Afghan nationals.

According to an FIA spokesperson, the arrested agent was involved in illegally trafficking Afghan citizens. Investigators recovered photographs, messages, and other crucial evidence related to human smuggling from his mobile phone.

The FIA confirmed that Asadullah maintained contacts with other smuggling agents. Interrogation is underway, and raids are being carried out to apprehend more suspects linked to the network.

BFA seizes 285 liters of adulterated milk, 216 kg substandard yogurt

QUETTA (UNA), Sept 19 — In a major anti-adulteration drive, the Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) carried out large-scale operations across Quetta, targeting milk and dairy suppliers in areas including Alamar Road, Sariab, Ghousabad, Mekangi, Kasi Road, and Toghi Road.

During inspections of 28 shops and 15 milk carrier vehicles, samples of 7,270 liters of milk were sent to mobile laboratories for testing. Authorities seized and destroyed 285 liters of adulterated milk and 216 kilograms of substandard yogurt on the spot, while eight outlets were heavily fined for violating food safety laws.

Secretary Food Balochistan, Manzoor Javed Ali, emphasized that the authority would not tolerate adulteration under any circumstances.

"Providing pure milk and yogurt is not just a campaign but a mission for safeguarding public health," he said.

Farida stresses quality, timely completion of dev. projects

SOHBA TPUR (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Sohbatpur, Farida Tareen, has directed officials of the Buildings Department to ensure uncompromised quality in all construction projects and to complete them within the stipulated timeframe by utilizing all available resources. She emphasized that the government is spending substantial funds on education and public welfare, making it the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to deliver projects that are durable and beneficial for the people in the long term.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Noshervani presides over the meeting of Socio-Political Committee.

Socio political committee holds first review meeting

New body to promote peace, harmony, good governance in Balochistan

— Noshervani

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The first review meeting of the newly established Socio-Political Committee, chaired by Balochistan's Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani, was held here on Thursday.

The meeting stressed that the formation of the committee is a major step toward sustainable peace, stability, and social cohesion in the province. It was noted that the forum would play a key role in making government initiatives at the local level more effective and coordinated.

The session was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Hamza Shafqat, Secretary Local Government Abdul Rauf Baloch, Special Secretary Finance Jahangir Kakar, along with other senior officials.

Participants held de-

tailed discussions on the social dimensions of the National Action Plan (NAP) and conducted a comprehensive review of the points approved by the Apex Committee. Particular focus was placed on strengthening the security architecture, addressing the spread of divisive content on social media, and examining the 28 points of the Balochistan Integrated Security Architecture (BISA), which cover all aspects of sabotage and subversion.

It was agreed that a comprehensive, effective, and multi-dimensional policy framework would be developed to counter these challenges. The meeting concluded with a decision that the committee will meet regularly on a monthly basis to ensure consistency and follow-through on all agreed measures.

Balochistan is our shared home; no one will be allowed to disturb peace: Bakht Kakar

Health Minister vows development, quality healthcare, and protection of public trust

QUETTA (ANN) — Provincial Health Minister and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Bakht Muhammad Kakar has said that Balochistan belongs to all and no one will be allowed to disrupt peace in the province. He stressed that collective efforts are essential for the province's development and prosperity.

Speaking to various delegations during his visit to Nawan Killi along with the XEN, Kakar assured that the mandate given by the people of his constituency will never be betrayed. "Our foremost priority is to resolve public issues and ensure quality facilities in government hospitals across the province," he added.

He noted that under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Balochistan is on the path

of progress with uniform development projects underway in all districts. The provincial government, he said, is focusing both on improving health facilities and ensuring timely completion of development schemes.

Kakar made it clear that no compromise will be tolerated on the quality of projects and the use of sub-standard materials will not be allowed. He also directed officials to begin the early construction of a protection wall along the flood channel to safeguard homes and local populations.

"Changing the destiny of this region requires sincere and collective efforts," he said, emphasizing that the government is committed to providing the best possible health services and timely completion of projects for the welfare of the people.

Over 1,000 soldiers killed in Balochistan, govt fails to restore peace: Ghafur Haidari

JUI leader warns of public unrest if state cannot guarantee safety; calls for rulers to quit if they cannot protect citizens

JACOBABAD (ANN) — Maulana Abdul Ghafur Haidari, central secretary-general of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI), on Sunday sharply criticized the federal and provincial governments for failing to provide security in Balochistan and elsewhere, saying more than 1,000 military personnel have been martyred in the province while the state remains unable to restore law and order.

Addressing visitors led by Dr. A.G. Ansari, the Jacobabad district chief, and congratulating JUI Sindh leaders on the success of a five-day peace march, Maulana Haidari said a government that cannot guarantee the safety of people in roads and mar-

kets has no moral or political right to remain in power. "If a government cannot protect its citizens it should step down," he asserted.

He warned that continued failure to ensure security would exhaust public patience and could lead to civil disobedience: refusal to pay taxes and utility bills and mass street protests. "If the state cannot secure its citizens, popular tolerance will end and people will take to the streets — and then the rulers will have nowhere to hide," he said. Maulana Haidari praised the five-day peace march as peaceful and disciplined, saying no vandalism or business closures were reported.



During her visit, the DC inspected the under-construction Government Girls College Sohbatpur and the District Complex Building, reviewing ongoing construction activities in detail. Execu-

tive Engineer Buildings, Irfan Ali, briefed her on the current progress, challenges, and measures being taken to overcome them.

DC Tareen noted that the Girls College will

Timely completion of development projects key to ending deprivation

Yaqoob Nasser says

Duki MNA vows to raise local issues at federal level; stresses health, education, clean water, and roads as top priorities

DUKI (6 AM Report): Member of the National Assembly Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasser has said that only through timely completion and transparent implementation of development projects can the deprivations of Duki be addressed. He made these remarks during a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Duki, Muhammad Naeem Khan, where they discussed public issues, development schemes, and provision of basic facilities in the district.

Sardar Yaqoob Khan

Nasser emphasized that he considers representing the people a serious responsibility, and his priority is to ensure that the residents of Duki are provided with essential services without delay. He particularly highlighted improvements in healthcare, education, drinking water, electricity, and road infrastructure as areas requiring urgent attention.

He assured that Duki's developmental concerns will also be effectively raised at the federal level.

Deputy Commis-

sioner Muhammad Naeem Khan welcomed the MNA's visit, noting that the district administration maintains close coordination with elected representatives to ensure swift resolution of public issues. He added that all government departments are fully mobilized to achieve development, prosperity, and public welfare.

The meeting concluded in a cordial atmosphere with both sides reaffirming their commitment to continue joint efforts in the interest of the people.



DUKI: Member of the Provincial Assembly Sardar Yaqoob Khan Nasir meeting with Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nadeem Khan.

Scheduled power outages in Quetta for maintenance work: QESCO

QUETTA (PR) — The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) has announced scheduled power shutdowns across various parts of the provincial capital for essential repair and development works.

According to QESCO, power supply will remain suspended from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on September 20-21 from Sheikh Manda Grid Station (Western Bypass, Jabal Noor, Dareem, Takatu, Dostan, Khotabad feeders). On September 21, feeders from Quetta City Grid (Stadium, Jinnah Town, Brewery, Malik Plant, Shehbaz Town), Sariab Grid (Old Jan Muhammad Road, New Jan Muhammad, Old Liaquat Bazaar, Sariab 1 & 2, Wasa, Khair Bakhsh Mari, BMC, Kirani, Hazara Town) will face power cuts from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm, while Mariabad Grid (Gulistan, Hali Road, City, Liaquat Bazaar Express) will be off from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Further, on September 22, Quetta City Grid feeders (Alam Khan, Nawan Killi, Old Samungli, Interconnector) will remain off from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. The same day, feeders linked to 132 KV Darwaza Grid Station (Asimabad, Kolpur, Usmanabad, Panjoo, Thirteen Mile, Chiltan, Qadirabad, Hamza Muhammad, Sigar, Muhammad Hasni) will be suspended from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

QESCO has apologized for the inconvenience and requested public cooperation during the scheduled outages.

provide greater opportunities for higher education to local female students, while the District Complex will allow citizens to access all government offices and facilities at one location after its completion.

She instructed the officers to accelerate the pace of work and ensure complete transparency in fund utilization, warning that negligence in development projects would not be tolerated.

Other officials of the Buildings Department were also present and shared updates on the latest status of the projects.

Service to people is our Mission: M. Khan lehri

Naseerabad (6 AM Report): Member of the Provincial Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary for Excise and Taxation, Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri, has reaffirmed that public service remains his core political mission, a commitment from which he will never step back.

Speaking to public delegations at Lehri House, Dera Murad Jamali, he announced that 50 kilometers of blacktop roads are under rapid construction in his constituency, promising long-term benefits for local communities. He further highlighted that three schools have been upgraded to higher secondary level, while projects in education, health, and clean drinking water are progressing swiftly in the public interest.

"These departments are being modernized to directly address the basic needs of the people," Lehri said, adding that under the directives of Chief Minis-

ter Sarfaraz Bugti, the government is ensuring implementation of development projects across Balochistan. Recruitment on merit in education and health sectors, he said, is proof of the government's people-friendly policies.

Former provincial minister Mir Abdul Ghafoor Lehri, Sub-Divisional Officer Roads Zulfikar Lehri, Haji Ahmed Sultan Lehri, Haji Abdul Ghafoor Pandrani, and Amanullah Mengal were also present on the occasion.

Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri emphasized that youth engagement in healthy activities is among the government's top priorities, assuring that issues of the Dinari Football Ground at the divisional headquarters are being resolved. He also recalled that in 2022 the foundation stone of Naseerabad Medical College was laid, while approval of BRC College reflects their dedication to serving the people.



NASEERABAD: Member of the Provincial Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary for Excise and Taxation, Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri giving briefing regarding development project.

Bahram lauds modern facilities at Raisani memorial hospital

Bahram Saleem terms hospital a blessing for people; inspects new trauma center and emergency response unit

MASTUNG (6 AM Report): Deputy Commissioner Mastung, Bahram Saleem, paid a surprise visit to the Shaheed Nawab Ghaus Bakhsh Raisani Memorial Hospital on Thursday and praised the hospital's modern healthcare facilities, calling them a "blessing" for the people of Mastung. During the visit, the hospital's CEO, Dr. Aamir Iqbal Raisani, gave the Deputy Commissioner a detailed briefing on the institution's current performance. DC Bahram Saleem inspected several key departments,

including the Emergency Response Center, X-ray unit, laboratory, medicine store, OPDs, wards, dialysis center, and CCU. He particularly noted the newly relocated Emergency Response Center near the main gate, which he said will provide patients with quick and easy access to treatment. He also reviewed the site of the new trauma center and the ongoing expansion works of the hospital building, appreciating the quality of construction and terming it a major step toward enhancing healthcare services in Mastung.

CDWP clears Rs18.1bn Kp health project, reviews key water & education schemes

Ahsan stresses early childhood education, STEM reforms, and urgent wastewater management

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Development Working Party (CDWP), chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, who also serves as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, met on Friday to review projects in the health and water sectors.

The CDWP recommended the revised Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Human Capital Investment Project (Health Component) to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at a total cost of Rs18, 137.420 million, said a release issued on Friday. The project will be implemented through an independent Project Management Unit under the KP Health Department in line with World Bank procurement guidelines, and financed through foreign assistance.

The Covering 13 districts including Peshawar, Nowshera, Swabi and Haripur, the project seeks to enhance the availability and quality of primary healthcare services for both host communities and refugees. The forum also approved the position paper of the project titled Strengthening Common Management Unit for AIDS, TB and Malaria and Accelerating Response to Control the three Diseases in Pakistan at a cost of Rs2 billion. The initiative, to be implemented nationwide,

aims to harmonize and strengthen institutional systems to eliminate AIDS, TB, and malaria by 2030 in line with Pakistan's global commitments under the SDGs. A strong Integrated Technical Support Unit will provide oversight, surveillance, and technical guidance to provinces, ensuring harmonized national programming and enhanced capacity building.

While reviewing the position paper of the project titled Responsive, Readiness and Resilient STEM Secondary Education in Punjab (ADB loan-based), the Planning Minister stressed that early childhood education must remain at the core of provincial and national education policies.

"The most productive investment on a child is in the early childhood development phase. If we fail at this stage, no amount of spending at later stages of education can compensate for the loss," he observed.

He said it is basic right of every child studying in public sector schools to have quality science and computer labs. Provides ical governments must ensure provision of labs in the schools so that we can raise generation bwhchis future ready. He further emphasized, "gap analysis should be carried out for union councils where there are no girls high school. Each union council must have a girl's high school."

Prof. Iqbal underlined that while education remains a top national priority, the quality of learning outcomes in public sector schools does not match the resources being spent. He stressed the need for strict accountability mechanisms and urged the recruitment of the "best of the best talent" to ensure tangible outcomes. Discussing the concept clearance of the Flood Disaster Prevention Master Plan and Construction of a Storm Water Storage System in Multan for climate change adaptation, the Minister further directed the Punjab P&D Department to prioritize schemes for wastewater and sewerage management.

Expressing concern over increasing pollution in rivers and groundwater, he said urgent action was required to safeguard public health and the environment. "Our rivers and underground water are being polluted at an alarming rate. Provincial governments must prioritize wastewater management systems if we are to protect both human health and economic productivity," he remarked.

Concluding the meeting, the Minister directed that each PC-I must clearly articulate concrete outcomes and measurable impact, reiterating that development spending without accountability and results-oriented planning cannot deliver the desired transformation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chaired Central Development Working Party (CDWP) meeting to review projects in the health and water sectors.

Tarar condemns KPK CM's notice to journalist Abdullah Momand

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar has expressed deep concern and regret over the notice sent to Dawn News journalist Abdullah Momand by Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur. The minister, in a news statement, said serving a Rs. 1 billion notice to Abdullah Momand merely for asking a question is tantamount to an "attack on press freedom, and violation of democratic values, and a deviation from the constitution". "It is the duty of a journalist to ask questions," he said, adding that serving a notice in response to a question is not only unconstitutional and illegal but also unethical. "Such actions are intended to undermine democratic values and silence journalists especially by putting them under pressure," the minister remarked.

He said democratic values demand that questions be answered with reason and clarification, not by harassing and intimidating

journalists. "Threatening journalists with defamation notices and cybercrime proceedings is unacceptable under any circumstances," he stressed. The minister described this behavior as an "abuse of state offices and powers", noting that such actions harm Pakistan's reputation not only domestically but also internationally.

He highlighted that media freedom and the protection of journalists are considered human rights globally, and incidents of this nature damage Pakistan's positive image.

Tarar called it "extremely regrettable" that every action of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) goes against the country's interests. He accused the party of habitually imposing restrictions on press freedom, ridiculing institutions, and attempting to defame public representatives. "The government stands with the journalist community and will firmly oppose any action that attempts to suppress the media or violate democratic values," he said.

Private Hajj applications opened

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs has opened the receipt of applications for the 2026 private Hajj scheme, allowing 37,903 new pilgrims to apply.

At the same time, 22,097 pilgrims who missed out last year will be given priority by private Hajj operators.

According to the ministry, private Hajj operators are required to first accommodate last year's registered pilgrims who were unable to perform Hajj.

A total of 22,097 such pilgrims have already been registered, ensuring that their long wait comes to an end this year.

Operators will also provide an affidavit confirming the completion of last year's registrations before new applicants are considered. The total quota for private Hajj operators has been set at 60,000 pilgrims, the ministry confirmed. This allocation will allow both the 22,097 previously deprived pilgrims and the 37,903 fresh applicants to perform the sacred journey under the private Hajj scheme.

On August 23, the process of receiving applications under the government Hajj scheme had officially completed, with 118,060 pilgrims applying from across country.

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Italian envoy calls on Minister for Defence Production

RAWALPINDI (APP): Ambassador of Italy Ms. Marilina Armellini called on Federal Minister for Defence Production Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj on Friday. The Minister warmly welcomed the dignitary and highlighted the importance of Pakistan's relations with Italy, said a press release. Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj said that Pakistan regards Italy as a friend and a reliable partner. He also said that Pakistan deeply value multi-faceted and trust-based close bilateral ties with Italy.

The Minister appreciated the Italian Defence Industrial potential and its ability to address needs of our defence forces. He emphasized that Pakistan has a lot of potential in the fields of energy and defence production with the possibility of joint venture which needs to be explored.

Members stressed that the department's lack of preparation for such a high-level forum was unacceptable and warned that non-seriousness and mismanagement would no longer be tolerated.

The PAC's scrutiny unveiled deep-rooted corruption and mismanagement within the Energy Department, with members asserting that implementing the committee's directives could save the Balochistan treasury billions of rupees.

Zardari oversees MoUs to boost Pakistan-China economic, industrial ties

URUMQI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday witnessed the signing of three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises to expand cooperation in different sectors.

The first MoU was signed between Loyal Modern Biotechnologies and the Government of Sindh, represented by Minister Nasir Shah. It focuses on modernising Pakistan's livestock industry.

The second MoU was signed between Beijing Asian Africa Longyue and ASM Services. It relates to the promotion and construction of a modern textile industrial park in Pakistan.

The third MoU was signed between Sichuan Chuanxiao Fire Trucks Manufacturing Company and ASM Services. It sets out a framework for cooperation in supply, distribu-

tion, sales, and after-sale services of fire trucks and advanced emergency equipment for Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, President Asif Ali Zardari said these MoUs would open new avenues of cooperation between Pakistan and China in sectors that directly support Pakistan's economic growth and public welfare.

He noted that modernising the livestock industry would help improve food security and create job opportunities in rural areas, the textile park will boost industrial development and exports, while the partnership on fire trucks and emergency equipment will strengthen Pakistan's capacity to respond to disasters and protect communities.

Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, and the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan were also present.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in a group photo with Parliamentary Secretary Mir Barkat Rind, Press Secretary Sheikh Abdul Razaq and Rizwan Saeed.

Govt committed to addressing universities' financial issues

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Provincial Minister for Finance and Minerals Mir Shoaib Noshervani has said that the government accords top priority to the promotion of education and is fully aware of the financial problems being faced by higher educational institutions. He assured that efforts are underway to find sustainable solutions so that universities can perform their duties with full focus.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of the Universities Finance Commission, co-chaired by Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani. The meeting was attended by Secretary Education Saleh Muhammad Baloch, Special Secretary Finance Jahangir Kakar, and vice chancellors of all universities of the province.

Noshervani informed participants that the salary payment issue had been resolved to a large extent, while efforts were continuing to address matters related to pensions and other financial challenges.

During discussions on operational expenditures,

vice chancellors unanimously agreed to accept the policy framework that would be introduced by the Finance Minister to resolve these issues.

The Provincial Finance Minister said that a long-term strategy would be formulated to ensure sustainable solutions to operational costs, salaries, and pensions.

Both ministers emphasized that, within the government's available resources, concrete steps were being taken to promote education. They highlighted that modern education and scientific knowledge are essential for bringing positive changes in nations' lives. In today's era, the importance of science and technology cannot be denied, as their development and innovations have a direct impact on improving human life and bringing revolutionary changes across various fields.

The ministers and participants reaffirmed their commitment to further improving the performance and quality of higher education institutions in the province.



RAWALPINDI: Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj, Federal Minister for Defence Production is presenting a souvenir to H.E Ms. Marilina Armellini, Ambassador of Italy.

GoB grants Rs. 53.21mln scholarships to 314 outstanding Matric toppers

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Under the education-friendly vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, the Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEF) has awarded a total of PKR 53.21 million in scholarships to 314 talented students through the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Matric District Toppers Fully Funded Scholarship Program for the academic year 2024.

This initiative not only marks a revolutionary step in promoting education across the province but also provides bright and deserving students at the district level with tangible opportunities for academic advancement.

BEF has officially announced the continuation of the scholarship program for the academic year 2025. The program offers:

Full tuition fee coverage

A scholarship amount of PKR 162,000 per student

The scholarships are available for all top-performing students from districts across Balochistan who secure outstanding marks in the 2025 annual matric examinations.

Students can check their names on the list and download the merit list and scholarship form from the provided link. The completed form must be verified by the current educational institution and submitted to the BEF office by October 15, 2025.

Note: The list is provisional. Students who scored higher marks but are not included in the list can submit objections by October 20, 2025.

This program continues BEF's commitment to providing quality educational opportunities to the province's brightest students.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the audience after inaugurating the newly constructed building of Bahria University Dental College and Hospital at Bahria University Health Sciences Campus.

Pakistan-Saudi defence pact a historic victory

Raheela Durrani says pact marks global recognition of Pakistan's military strength; credits PM Shehbaz's vision and COAS Asim Munir's leadership for historic achievement

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan's Minister for Education, Raheela Hameed Durrani, has hailed the recently signed Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defence agreement as a "historic breakthrough" and a "great victory" for the nation.

In a statement, she said the pact reflects global recognition of Pakistan's growing geostrategic and military significance, with Saudi Arabia acknowledging the Pakistan Army's professional excellence, capability, and courage.

She noted that the warm and historic reception accorded to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Saudi Arabia was not only a tribute to Pakistan's leadership but also a mark of respect for its people and armed forces at the international level.

Durrani said while the wider Muslim world is celebrating Pakistan's elevated status, hostile nations, particularly India, are facing "unease and anxiety" over the development.

She emphasized that the honour of safeguarding the holy sites in Makkah and Madinah is a unique blessing for Pakistan, underscoring its pivotal role as a cornerstone of Muslim unity in the current global context.

The minister credited the success of the agreement to the political foresight of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the military leadership of Army Chief General Asim Munir, whose strategic efforts brought the world's attention toward Pakistan.

Durrani added that the agreement has fostered a spirit of national unity and sent a clear message to anti-state elements. "Pakistan is now standing as one nation, and with Allah's will, it will soon emerge as a strong, prosperous, and developed country," she said.



QUETTA: Quetta Bar Association Vice President Humaira Munir and Farzana Khilji Congratulate Balochistan Service Tribunal Chairman Abdul Hadi Tareen.

CNS inaugurates new building Dental College, Hospital

KARACHI (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Naveed Ashraf, inaugurated the newly constructed building of Bahria University Dental College and Hospital here at Bahria University Health Sciences Campus.

The ceremony marked a major milestone in the institution's pursuit of excellence in healthcare and education, said a news release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pak Navy).

Addressing the ceremony, the Naval Chief expressed deep satisfaction over the establishment of state-of-the-art facility and lauded Bahria University's dedicated efforts in promoting health sciences education.

Balochistan sizzles under hot, dry weather

QUETTA (UNA) Most districts of Balochistan experienced hot and dry weather on Thursday, with temperatures peaking at 41°C in Nokundi, according to the Provincial Meteorological Department.

Quetta recorded a maximum of 31°C, Kalat 28°C, Ziarat 23°C, Zhob 34°C, Sibi 40°C, Turbat 39°C, and Chaman 34°C. Along the coast, Gwadar reported 32°C while Jiwani stood at 30°C.

The Met Office has advised the public to take precautionary measures to avoid the adverse effects of the heat.

PAC slams energy department over billions in irregularities, warns of strict accountability

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) delivered a stern warning to the Energy Department over massive budget irregularities and mismanagement during a meeting chaired by Asghar Ali Tareen today.

The session was attended by PAC members Fazal Qadir Mandokhail, Wali Muhammad Noorzai, Rahmat Saleh Baloch, Safia Bibi, along with special invitees including Opposition Leader Yunus Aziz

Zehri, Assembly Secretary Tahir Shah Kakr, DG Audit Shuja Ali, Deputy Accountant General Hafiz Noor-ul-Haq, and Additional Secretary PAC Siraj Lehri.

The committee revealed that during the fiscal year 2021-22, the Energy Department received PKR 10.4 billion, of which only PKR 8 billion was spent while PKR 2.31 billion lapsed unutilized. Members criticized the failure to fully use allocated funds,

calling it a reflection of irresponsible budgeting and ineffective fund management. Wali Muhammad Noorzai described the 30% lapse as a major violation, while Fazal Qadir Mandokhail warned that responsible officials would face punishment. The PAC unanimously decided that the Chief Secretary would be instructed to ensure that any secretary who fails to return excess funds over 5% of the budget to the treasury would face strict action.

The meeting also exposed PKR 40 billion in irregularities in subsidized tube wells, where payments of PKR 10 billion to QESCO and PKR 30 billion to K-Electric were made without proper meter readings, based purely on estimates. PAC members criticized the Energy Department for failing to act on a 2021 PAC inquiry and warned that continued negligence could lead to referral to NAB.

Committee members

highlighted unpaid electricity duties and sales tax, revealing that QESCO collected PKR 989 million in electricity duty but did not transfer the provincial share, while PKR 62 million in service sales tax deductions was also withheld, causing significant loss to the provincial treasury.

Chairman Asghar Ali Tareen condemned issuing bills without meter readings and emphasized that billions in subsidies had been disbursed recklessly.