

Kh. Asif backs debate on new provinces, urges swift action on flood management

LAHORE (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has welcomed the ongoing debate on creating new provinces in Pakistan, saying it is a step in the right direction. Speaking to media, the minister said: "The whole country is talking about new provinces, and that is a good thing. The world keeps making new provinces or states. If we do the same, there's nothing wrong with it." On the issue of floods, Khawaja Asif warned that Pakistan will continue to face the threat every year if proper steps are not taken. He pointed out that building large dams would take at least seven years, while smaller dams could be built more quickly and cover more areas. The minister stressed the need for smart water storage, saying, "Around the world, water storage is built to manage rainwater. We should construct dams in rain-fed areas, and Sialkot is a good example of where they should be built." By putting the ball in the court of policymakers, Khawaja Asif underlined that quick and practical measures are the only way forward to tackle floods and improve water management.

PM winds up 6 day official China visit

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday wound up his six-day official visit to China and departed for Pakistan. At the Capital International Airport in Beijing, Han Xerong, Member of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi and diplomatic staff bid farewell to the Prime Minister, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. During his visit to China, the prime minister attended the 25th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Heads of State and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus Summit in Tianjin. The Prime Minister attended the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the World War Against Fascism.

Public holidays announced across Balochistan on Sept 5-6 for Eid Milad-un-Nabi

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Services and General Administration Department of the Government of Balochistan has announced public holidays across the province on Friday and Saturday, September 5 and 6, 2025 (corresponding to 12th Rabi-ul-Awal 1447 Hijri), in celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH). According to the official notification, all government offices will remain closed during these days. However, officers and staff engaged in emergency and essential services will continue to perform their duties as usual.

Balochistan Judiciary to observe public holidays on September 5-6

QUETTA (6 AM Report): The Balochistan High Court has issued a notification declaring September 5 and 6 (Friday and Saturday) as public holidays for the judiciary across the province. According to the announcement, the holidays will apply to the Balochistan High Court, its benches in Sibi and Turbat, as well as all district courts, special courts, and federal and provincial tribunals within the province.

Pak, China pledge closer coop on upgraded CPEC phase-II

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China on Thursday, expressing satisfaction over the positive trajectory of their relations, agreed to continue working closely on the next phase of upgraded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC 2.0), with its five new corridors. The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese Premier Li Qiang here. During their "warm and friendly" meeting, the prime minister expressed his deepest gratitude to the Chinese leadership and nation for their unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and socio-economic development. Building on the important consensus reached between President Xi Jinping and the Prime Minister in their meeting on Tuesday (September 02, 2025), both leaders reaffirmed their shared resolve to further strengthen the iron-clad, all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China. The signing of the Joint Action Plan 2024-2029 was deemed as an important step in this regard. Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated the Chinese leadership on the successful hosting of the SCO Council of Heads of State Summit in Tianjin and extended his felicitations to China on the 80th anniversary of the success of the Chinese people in the War of Resistance and World's Anti-Fascist War. Paying rich tribute to China's impressive transformation under President Xi Jinping's visionary leadership, the prime minister stated that Pakistan wanted to emulate China's successes and build a stronger and closer Pakistan-China community with a shared future. He noted that his government's tireless re-



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti presides over the meeting regarding Youth Skill Development Program.

Tenure of Field Marshal Asim Munir will conclude in 2027: Rana

LAHORE (Online): Advisor to Prime Minister (PM) Rana Sana Ullah Khan has said that the tenure of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir will conclude in 2027 and after it the question of extension will rise. Asim Munir has given chance to this nation of feeling proud in the form of Marka-e-Haq, he said this while talking to media men in Punjab Assembly (PA). He held climate change is coming in the entire world. Sutlej and Ravi had dried up. Water has come there plentifully.

He added government has done team work this time. Therefore casualties have occurred in minimum number. All the departments of government have worked like a team. They have evacuated million of people. Had government been not alert, the loss would have been enormous. He observed bid is being made to trigger civil war. This attempt was made on May, 9 and such bid was made on 24 and 26. Civil war cannot be allowed at any cost. This can jeopardize integrity of Pakistan. Be it any faction, it should be stopped sternly. He underlined service term of army chief was 4 years in some time earlier. Later it was fixed three years. Now service tenure of army chief has become 5 years. The term of Field Marshall Asim Munir will be completed in 2027. Then the question of extension will arise. Field Marshal Asim Munir has given the opportunity of feeling proud to this nation after 78 years.

State is capable of using every tactic against political workers, but fails to trace terrorists

QUETTA (PR): The leaders of six political parties in Balochistan held a joint press conference today at the Quetta Press Club, strongly condemning in the harshest words the suicide attack on September 2 at Shahwani Stadium, Saryab Road, during the fourth death anniversary of Sardar Attaullah Mengal. They announced that on September 8, a province-wide rail and wheel jam, shutter-down strike, rallies, and protest demonstrations would be held. It should be noted that in this tragic incident, 15 political workers have been martyred and 41 injured so far, while the head of Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Aeen Pakistan and Chairman of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, BNP leader

Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, along with leaders of ANP, National Party, and PTI, miraculously remained safe. Speaking at the press conference, Mahmood Khan Achakzai said that for the last two days he has been unable to understand or recover from the purpose of this attack. In our country, the real ruler is the Army Chief, who is also a Hafiz-e-Quran, and this fact is no secret. The Holy Qur'an declares that the killing of one innocent soul is equal to killing all of humanity. If the objective was to eliminate the entire provincial leadership, then what benefit would that bring to Pakistan? He said that in this country the Constitution has been repeatedly broken and trampled, yet not only has no

Timely, effective justice not only constitutional mandate but also moral responsibility: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi, on Thursday observed that timely and effective justice is not only a constitutional mandate but also a moral responsibility. The chief justice chaired the sixth interactive progress review session at the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The session brought together senior officials, stakeholders, and officers of the Supreme Court to assess monthly progress under the Reform Action Plan (RAP) and provide strategic guidance on pending initiatives and upcoming milestones. The meeting was attended by the Registrar Supreme Court, IT Advisor Hamayun Zafar, section heads of the Supreme Court, the Senior Director of the Federal Judicial Academy, and the Secretary of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP). During the deliberations, the Chief Justice was briefed on the substantial advancements achieved in the Court's reform agenda. Out of 89 identified initia-



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.



BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Premier Li Qiang of the People's Republic of China.

PM Shehbaz's visit takes Pak-China relations to unprecedented heights: Tarar

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday described Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China as highly significant, noting that Pakistan-China relations have reached unprecedented heights as a result of the visit. Speaking to the media after the opening session of the 2nd Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference, the minister said the government, under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, is prioritizing the advancement of CPEC 2.0.

He explained that the focus of CPEC's second phase includes B2B partnerships, industrial development in Pakistan, enhanced regional connectivity, and the remodeling and reconstruction of the Karakoram Highway (KKH). Highlighting opportunities in the IT and mining sectors, Tarar stressed the importance of AI-driven growth. He said the Prime Minister holds deep respect for Chinese President Xi Jinping, considering him a role model, and that meetings with Chinese leadership during the visit were extremely warm and cordial.

"The world has witnessed that the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic partnership remains rock solid. We take pride in being called iron brothers, a bond that truly inspires our people," he remarked.

Five more SIC MNAs resign from standing committees

ISLAMABAD (Online): Five more Members of National Assembly (MNAs) of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) have resigned from standing committees of National Assembly (NA). According to NA sources the toll of those MNAs who have resigned from standing committees has risen to 52. Resignations of 22 MNAs have not been received so far. The MNAs who have been disqualified being sentenced by the courts are not included in these members who have resigned. Sources said speaker NA Sardar Ayyaz Sadiq has taken no action on these resignations so far. On the other side government has requested NA speaker to accept the resignations of MNAs from SIC.

Unemployment a major challenge: CM Bugti

Vows to equip youth with skills and dignified jobs; illegal trade not the future of Balochistan's youth

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has declared youth skill development a top priority of the government to tackle unemployment, emphasizing the need to create sustainable job opportunities within the private sector. Chairing a review meeting on the Youth Skills Development Program at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Thursday, Sarfraz Bugti described the province's youth as its greatest asset. He underscored the government's commitment to equipping them with the tools needed for a prosperous future, steering them away from smuggling and other illicit activities. "Smuggling is not the

future of our youth," Sarfraz Bugti added. "We must provide them with dignified employment through education and vocational training." The meeting was attended by senior officials including Advisor to the Chief Minister on Labour and Manpower Sardar Ghulam Rasool Umrani, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, and B-Tevta Director General Tariq Javed Mengal. Officials briefed the Chief Minister on plans to train 30,000 young individuals across various trades in collaboration with reputable institutions. Bugti directed that the training programs be aligned with current market de-

mands to ensure both local and international employment prospects. Special preference will be given to youth from border districts under both the skills development and interest-free loan schemes. The initiative aims to divert young people from illegal enterprises and integrate them into the formal economy. Sarfraz Bugti stressed the importance of transparency and merit-based selection in implementing the program. He reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to ensure scholarships, vocational training, and job creation as pillars of youth empowerment and national development.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani and Commandant Gilrs Cadet College Quetta Brigadier Mirza Faisal meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Balochistan demands greater share in NFC award to tackle unique challenges: Governor

Governor emphasizes fiscal reforms, strategic investments, and inclusion of local exports like dates in the NFC formula

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Governor Jafar Khan Mandokhail has called for a more inclusive and strategically revised National Finance Commission (NFC) Award formula that addresses the province's unique geographic, economic, and developmental challenges. He was speaking during a detailed briefing on the NFC Award presented by economist Mahfuz Ali Khan. Governor Mandokhail described Fiscal Federation as a complex but vital topic that requires deeper public understanding, especially in the context of maintaining a balance between national economic stability and provincial autonomy. He stressed the need to consider Balochistan's vast land area, the urgency of poverty reduction, and the strategic potential of the

province's mineral sector, blue economy, fisheries, and agricultural exports – particularly dates – in the revised NFC formula. "The NFC Award is not just about fiscal distribution; it's about enabling provinces like Balochistan to grow and contribute meaningfully to Pakistan's overall economic development," said the governor. "We need to ensure that strategic investment in Balochistan reflects our contribution, our sacrifices, and our untapped potential." He praised Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani and his team for their dedication to improving the province's financial standing and highlighted the importance of expert consultation and proactive planning ahead of national NFC deliberations.

UN Chief mourns hundreds killed, over million displaced in Pak's devastating floods

NEW YORK (INP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed grief over the devastating floods in Pakistan that have killed hundreds of people and displaced over a million. "The Secretary-General is profoundly saddened by the recent floods in northern Pakistan, which have reportedly claimed more than 400 lives," his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in a statement. The disaster, caused by a "severe monsoon exacerbated by climate change," has affected some 1.5 million people, leaving hundreds of thousands in need of humanitarian aid, according to the statement. It further noted that "more than 3,000 homes, over 400 schools, and some 40 health facilities have been damaged." The UN chief commended Pakistan's response efforts, adding that he "commends Pakistani authorities for relocating more than one million people in Punjab."



political protest on September 8. Achakzai said that if he had wished to exploit public emotions that night, our workers could have set fire to all police stations and government offices in the province. But we chose instead to give a peaceful, serious, and effective political response. On September 8, trains, airports, wheels, and shutters will all come to a standstill.

Political parties announces Balochistan-wide wheel jam, shutter down strike

We will continue our democratic and political struggle for the protection and supremacy of the Constitution—and we will do it openly and boldly. We are no one's slaves; here there are neither masters nor servants. We believe in hu-

Announcing the comprehensive

CM KP reviews DCD Performance, orders action against fake medicines

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur here Thursday chaired a meeting of health to review the performance of the Directorate of Drug Control (DCD) and Pharmacy Services.

Advisor to CM, Ihtisham Ali and along with senior officials of the department also attended the meeting. The CM was briefed on mandate, objectives, financial and administrative affairs, regulatory framework and overall performance of the directorate.

It was told that from January to June, the department conducted 6,815 inspections and examined 6,935 drug samples. Of these, 214 were declared substandard, 84 unregis-

tered, 69 fake, and 78 misbranded. During this period, 70 medical stores were sealed and 23 FIRs were registered, while 944 illegal items were confiscated. A total of 1,198 cases were filed in drug courts, of which 347 have been decided, resulting in fines amounting to over Rs6.1 million.

It was further informed that drug testing laboratories are analyzing more than 1,000 samples each month. The department is aligning existing drug testing laboratories with World Health Organization standards, while two mobile drug testing labs are already functional and conducting on-site screenings.

Work is also underway on the establishment of five additional mobile labs, as

well as new drug testing laboratories in Swat and D.I. Khan. Monthly progress reports by drug inspectors are uploaded to an online portal, and a Medicine Coordination Cell is in place to ensure the procurement of quality medicines and medical equipment, officials the meeting.

Chairing the meeting, CM said the directorate plays a vital role in ensuring the quality of medicines. He directed that the institution be further strengthened, modernized, and made more effective.

"Providing people with quality healthcare facilities is our top priority, and there will be no compromise on this," he said instructing strict vigilance against counterfeit and sub-standard medicines.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the high level meeting at Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education. Secretary Health Punjab Azmat Mehmood is also present.

Govt committed to full rehabilitation of flood victims: Rana Mashhood

LAHORE (APP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan has said that the government will not leave the flood victims alone in this difficult time.

He said the Punjab government, in collaboration with the federal government, will compensate for the losses suffered by the victims, and the relief operations will continue until full rehabilitation is achieved. He expressed these views on Thursday during the inauguration of a Flood Relief Medical Camp at Talat Park. Member of Provincial Assembly Sadia Taimoor and other officials were also present.

While addressing the medical staff and administration at the camp, Rana Mashhood instructed that there should be no negligence in the provision of medicines, food and essential items to the flood victims. He said that the medical camps must remain operational 24 hours a day to provide uninterrupted

medical facilities to the affected people.

He further added that under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the relief and rehabilitation efforts for flood victims are ongoing vigorously. The government will leave no stone unturned to provide all possible relief to the victims during this challenging time, added Mashhood. He said that the government, Pakistan Army, Rescue 1122 and other institutions are continuously working to serve the victims.

He highlighted that more than 4,000 villages and urban areas in Punjab have been severely affected by the recent floods. The chairman PM's Youth Programme appreciated the people of Buner for acknowledging the Punjab government's efforts, noting that the amount of aid sent by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for the flood-affected Pathan brothers in Buner has not been matched by anyone else.

Lahore youth found murdered in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A youth, belonging to Lahore, has been found murdered in Sector 11 of Orangi Town, Karachi.

The police have said they have found the deceased's cellphone, which has showed that the last call he had received was from a girl named Mahnoor.

However, the police have added that the phone is locked, and it will be unlocked to get to the bottom of the incident. Besides that, footage from nearby CCTV cameras is also being examined to identify the assassins.

The police have further said that as per the initial investigation, it appears that the youth, who has been identified as Zain, son of Abdul Aziz, a resident of Lahore, was called to a home and then murdered.

Two robbers killed in police encounter

BUREWALA (APP): Two more robbers were killed in an encounter near village 517/EB within the jurisdiction of Saddar police station on Thursday, raising the tally of slain outlaws to four within the last 24 hours.

According to CCD officials, some accomplices of the robbers managed to escape from the scene. The deceased were identified as Irfan alias Fauji, a resident of 19/WB, and Ilyas Mochi alias Raphri, a resident of 15/WB. Both belonged to district Vehari and were wanted in multiple cases including robbery, theft, murder and attempted murder registered in various police stations of the district.

Rescue officials shifted the bodies to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital where doctors confirmed their death. Police took the bodies into custody for postmortem after completing legal formalities.

The CCD team collected evidences from the crime scene and launched an investigation. Special teams were constituted to arrest the fleeing robbers at the earliest, officials said.

Punjab govt launches Clinics on Boats in flood-hit areas

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab government has launched Clinics on Boats in flood-affected areas across the province.

According to provincial Health Department, 968 mobile clinics and medical relief camps have been set up to treat those affected by the floods.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has directed that best possible medical treatment be ensured to all flood affectees in the province. Clinics on Boats launched under to reach stranded populations providing access to doctors, medicines and other medical supplies.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing Palestine wants Peace seminar.

WFP, BISP leadership reaffirm commitment to nutrition security in Pak

KARACHI (APP): The Deputy Country Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Pakistan, Thomas Conan, Ms Hilde BERGSM, Head of Sindh WFP and Salma, Head of Operations (BNP) Sindh Projects paid a courtesy visit to the Central Zonal Office of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in Karachi. He was warmly received by Director General BISP Sindh, Zulfiqar Ali Shaikh, Muhammad Akram Bhutto, Director Central Zone and Abdul Hadi, Deputy Director (NSER) and Shafquat Ali, Media & Coordination Officer.

During the meeting, Shaikh provided an overview of BISP's ongoing initiatives, with a special focus on the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP). He added that 1.283 million beneficiaries are registered in Benazir Nashonuma Programme with 101 facilitation centers in Sindh region.

BNP is a joint initiative between BISP and WFP aimed at improving maternal and child nutrition in Pakistan. The programme specifically targets pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age from the most

vulnerable households.

The Benazir Nashonuma Programme delivers a comprehensive package of nutrition-sensitive services, including: Specialized Nutritious Food, Maternal and Child Health Services, Immunization and Conditional Cash Transfers. Thomas Conan appreciated the impact of the BNP, noting that the programme has reached over 2.5 million women and children across 157 districts in Pakistan. He acknowledged the program's success in reducing stunting and low birth weight, and commended Pakistan's leadership in utilizing social safety nets to achieve nutrition security.

"The Benazir Nashonuma Programme is a testament to what can be achieved through strong collaboration between national institutions and international partners," Conan stated. "It represents a scalable and effective model for addressing malnutrition and supporting vulnerable communities."

BISP and WFP reaffirmed their shared commitment to expanding the reach of the programme and continuing efforts to improve the health and well-being of women and children across the country.

LHC gives time in recovery of woman said to have been kidnapped by jinns

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has given time to IG Punjab in recovery case of a woman said to have been kidnapped by jinns 6 years back. Chief Justice (CJ) of LHC Aalia Neelum remarked during the hearing of the case on Thursday "where the matter of woman comes why does not it remain important. Can police not work earlier. The stance taken by family is very strange that woman has been taken away by jinns."

The CJHC remarked investigation should start from home in such case. The report presented by CCPO was written while sitting in police station. Why did the investigation officer not initiate proceedings earlier. Court is seeing time is not mentioned in any proceedings of investigation.



MUZAFFARGARH: Rescue 1122 workers evacuate flood victims to safer place amid rising water level.

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Conservator of Forest Zhoab@ Loralai invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work's	E/Cost
1	Water Resource Development TSE-252609837963	20,000,000
2	Habitat Improvement TSE-252609837943	90,568,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents **Bidding Procedure:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE-252609837963, TSE- 252609837943) **Tender Documents:** The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.gov.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee. **Last Date and Time of Bid Submission** 19 September, 2025 at 10:00 AM and will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM **Address:** Office of the Conservator of Forests Loralai **Phone no:** 0824660891

PRQ No.1068/04-9-2025
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Ulema Council leader shot dead by bike-riders in Narang Mandi

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): A shocking incident unfolded in Sheikhupura's tehsil Muridke, where unidentified armed motorcyclists opened fire in the bustling Narang Mandi bazaar, targeting a Pakistan Ulema Council leader on Thursday.

According to the report, the attack claimed the life of Qari Abid Farooqi, the Tehsil President of the Ulema Council. Police reported that the assailants managed to flee immediately after the firing.

Authorities added that the ambush occurred near Gol Chowk Shadi Hall in Narang, where the cleric also held a position in the Anjuman Shehriyan Narang. Sheikhupura police shifted the Islamic cleric's dead body to the THQ Hospital Muredke for a post-mortem.

Meanwhile, in Burewala's Sadar area, two notorious robbers were killed during an encounter with the Counter Crime Department (CCD) police, while one accomplice escaped.

According to CCD officials, the bandits were gunned down by crossfire from their own accomplices.

Three injured, 2 kidnapped as katcha dacoits open fire on vehicles

SADIQABAD (INP): At least three people were injured and two others kidnapped after armed katcha dacoits opened indiscriminate fire on vehicles traveling along the Sukkur-Multan M-5 Motorway.

The incident took place late last night between Sadiqabad and Kashmore, when more than two dozen armed dacoits stormed the motorway, firing indiscriminately at passing vehicles. Multiple vehicles, including trucks, buses, and cars, were damaged in the attack, with burst tires and broken windows reported.

According to police sources, at least three passengers sustained serious injuries and were immediately shifted to a hospital for treatment. Following the assault, the assailants fled into the katcha area. The dacoits also abducted two passengers—identified as Imran and Umar—both residents of Nawabshah.

Motorway police and local law enforcement rushed to the scene upon receiving reports of the incident. An emergency response was initiated, and the road was temporarily closed to traffic at the Azampur Service Area and Guddu Interchange to ensure public safety. Authorities confirmed that investigations are currently underway to trace the kidnappers.

Markhor hunting permit auctioned for record Rs100m

GILGIT (INP): A trophy hunting permit for Pakistan's national animal, Markhor, was auctioned for a record Rs100 million (approximately \$370,000) in Gilgit-Baltistan under the region's annual Trophy Hunting Program.

The permit was issued for the Nanga Parbat Conservancy Area and was acquired by the owner of "Shikar Safaris," marking it as the most expensive trophy hunting permit in the history of the program.

The auction took place at the Forest, Parks, and Wildlife Complex in Gilgit, attended by local and international hunters, officials, and wildlife conservation experts. The 2025–26 trophy hunting season includes permits for a total of 118 animals, comprising 4 Astor Markhors, 100 Himalayan Ibex, and 14 Blue Sheep.

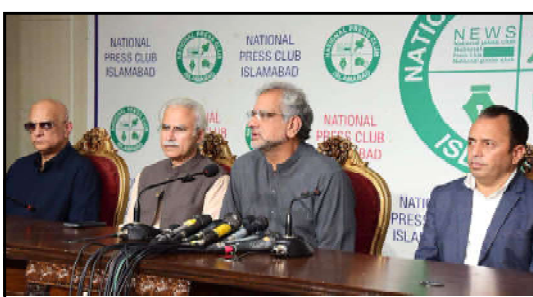
Punjab Governor urges unity, calls for tax and bill waivers in flood-hit areas

LAHORE: The country is currently facing the most difficult situation due to the devastation of floods. This is not the time for politics, but for helping and rehabilitating the victims. The government should waive taxes and electricity bills of flood-affected areas. This was said by Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan while talking to the victims during his visit to the flood-affected areas of Nankana Sahib. On this occasion, the Punjab Governor distributed ration and food items among the people. The Punjab Governor appealed to the philanthropists to actively help the flood-affectedes. He said that Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto will soon visit the flood-affected areas of Punjab.

The Punjab Governor said that President Asif Ali Zardari is being informed about the flood situation in Punjab moment by moment. He said that he will

try to get the government to waive the electricity bills of the flood victims for six months. He said that he will get the taxes on the flood-affected agricultural lands waived at all costs. The Punjab Governor said that he is reviewing the flood situation in Jhelum, Chakwal, Hafizabad, Ravi, Nankana Sahib and various districts of Punjab. He said that at present, thousands of acres of Punjab's land are under water due to the flood. The Punjab Governor said that people's houses were submerged in water, valuable lives, livestock were all swept away in the flood.

The Governor of Punjab said that all the institutions and machinery of Punjab are busy in helping the flood victims. The Governor of Punjab further said that all the parties must come together and stand by the flood victims in this difficult time.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Awami Pakistan Party leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and others are holding a press conference at NPC.

Aseefa Bhutto reviews flood situation in Nawabshah

NAWABSHAH (APP): The First Lady of Pakistan and Member National Assembly, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, visited district Shaheed Benazirabad to review the situation arising from the recent flood threats and the measures being taken to accompany by Sindh Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho during the visit.

Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, SSP, and officials from the Irrigation Department, Rescue 1122, and Health Department briefed Aseefa Bhutto Zardari on the current situation and preparedness. Officials informed MNA that in case of a super flood, around 80,000 people living in 95 villages across nine union councils could be affected, along with 64,000 livestock, for which evacuation efforts are already underway.

Flood-prone areas in Qazi Ahmed and Sakrand tehsils include That, Saeed Kando, Phullel, Khad, Gehram Mari, Bahawal Shah, Mehrabpur, Mari, and Moria Lakho.

Authorities have so far established 59 relief camps and 11 medical camps in the affected areas. Arrangements have also been made for life jackets, boats, fire brigades, ambulances, dewatering pumps, and ventilators to ensure rescue and relief operations.

Aseefa Bhutto Zardari appreciated the efforts of police, administration, and volunteers in carrying out rescue and relief work.

She assured the people of Shaheed Benazirabad that they would not be left alone in this crisis. This is a time to rise above political differences and stand united as one nation, she said. Highlighting that this is the third major flood within the past five years, she expressed hope that the administration would learn from past experiences to respond more effectively this time.

KP govt calls for immediate suspension of return of Afghan refugees

PESHAWAR (Online): KP government spokesperson Barrister Dr Saif has said the process of return of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan should be suspended forthwith on humanitarian grounds and as a gesture of good will.

As per media reports, KP government spokesman Barrister Dr Saif said in his statement Afghanistan is facing the damages caused by the disastrous earthquake. It is not possible to bear the burden of return of refugees by a poverty stricken country.

A large number among the earth quake victims and injured are the Afghan refugees who have returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan. In such circumstances we

should help Afghanistan rather than drifting it into more hardships. It is not morally correct to place the burden of return of Afghan refugees on a poverty stricken country.

Afghanistan is in dire need of assistance and co-operation at present. Extending help is prime responsibility of Pakistan being a neighboring Muslim country. KP government is extending help to earth quake affected Afghan refugees beyond its resources.

During his meeting with Afghan ambassador KP Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur has extended offer to provide free medical facilities and every possible cooperation to earth quake affectees.

KP Minister Meena Khan distributes relief among flood victims of Buner

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan on Thursday paid a visit to district Buner and distributed various types of relief items among the flood-affected communities on behalf of the Higher Education Department.

Furthermore, the provision of a water supply system and solar energy facilities was ensured to facilitate the affected population with essential needs.

The Minister was accompanied by Kabir Khan, Member Provincial Assembly from Buner and Parlia-

mentary Secretary for Higher Education, and Usman Ghani, Director, Institute of Management Sciences.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reaffirmed that the provincial government is committed to utilizing all available resources for the rehabilitation and facilitation of the people and will continue to take every possible measure in this regard.

He further tweeted that in response to unsatisfactory results in certain public colleges, including Government Degree College Sherwan, an inquiry committee was constituted on September 2.

Daily 6AM, Quetta
Friday September 05, 2025

Kalabagh again

KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's support for the dead Kalabagh dam project has stirred up a storm. His endorsement of the dam runs contrary to popular public opinion not just in Sindh and Balochistan but also in his own province.

Ostensibly contingent on addressing provincial reservations to the controversial hydropower project on the Indus, his support for the dam — opposed by the provincial assemblies of Sindh, KP and Balochistan in the not so distant past — has baffled his own party as well. PTI leaders from KP and Sindh quickly disowned his statements. Asad Qaiser said that Mr Gandapur’s statement did not reflect the party’s policy. “The party has always made it clear that there should not be any controversial project. At the moment, there is a need to strengthen the federation,” he said. Haleem Adil Sheikh called the proposal a “dead horse”, which the PTI never supported. The PPP, through Nisar Khuhro, reminded Mr Gandapur that three provinces had already closed the door on Kalabagh.

The irony, however, is that the PML-N’s government in Punjab — often viewed by other federating units as the force behind the project — found itself in rare agreement with Mr Gandapur, with its information minister rushing to countersign the CM’s reckless grandstanding on behalf of her party. It exposes deep provincial fault lines: what is seen as a necessity in Punjab is viewed as a sell-out by the other provinces.

Mr Gandapur’s support for the Kalabagh dam comes on the heels of a plea from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during a recent visit to flood-hit Narowal district, for a consensus on new water reservoirs to fight the challenges of climate change and deal with the recurring floods.

While the move to bring up Kalabagh dam again risks opening old wounds, the cry for new reservoirs underpins how deeply our power elites are stuck in old, redundant concepts. As if we needed it, the effort to revive a defunct project is proof that our rulers are not capable of thinking beyond brick-and-mortar solutions to our worsening climate challenges. Is this because of lack of imagination or due to the massive money involved in such schemes, or both?

Pakistan, which is among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, desperately needs solutions to its problems of water shortages and droughts, devastating floods, erosion of the Indus delta, which is displacing local communities, and so on. These issues cannot be resolved by stopping the river flows through dams.

At a time when Pakistan needs unity more than ever, with floods wreaking devastation in several parts of the country and an economy on the brink, it is crucial that our rulers started to think beyond brick-and-mortar structures — if, indeed, they want to solve our increasing climate-related challenges.

Usama Khilji

Pakistan’s National Artificial Intelligence Policy, 2025, was approved by the federal cabinet on July 31, 2025, as a six-pillar roadmap to build an AI ecosystem.

This is a welcome step considering the increasing use, application, availability and risks of AI in technology-related sectors, as well as the increased societal use of it. Whereas the policy outlines an ambitious plan related to AI in Pakistan, it can benefit with several additions, and the addressing of contextual realities including impact and risks that the plan does not acknowledge.

The AI policy created a National AI Fund (allocating 30 per cent of Ignite’s Research and Development fund), Centres of Excellence, an AI Council/Directorate, regulatory sandboxes and national compute/data infrastructure.

The policy prioritises sector pilots in health, education, agriculture and governance, plus public awareness. Targets include training up to one million professionals by 2030; 3,000 scholarships annually, paid internships and alignment with global standards on ethics, cybersecurity and data protection. Implementation will follow a master plan and action matrix overseen by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom.

The policymaking process was not inclusive, as a multi-stakeholder dialogue has not included cross-cutting segments of society, including environmentalists, civil society, digital rights experts, media and the healthcare and education sectors; and there is no transparency around the stakeholder engagement process.

Significantly, there is no legislative basis for taking these decisions, as no parliamentary debate (including in the IT com-

mittees) has taken place, other than the IT ministry formulating the policy through a nontransparent process.

For starters, the policy does not acknowledge the limitations in Pakistan’s digital infrastructure, including a jarring digital divide, which will impact the implementation of the AI policy equitably. For instance, there was a three-week mobile internet shutdown across Balochistan last month, and internet connectivity remains limited in several other parts of the country, including KP’s western districts.

The policy speaks of including AI in public school curricula, but thousands of schools across the country are devoid of functional computer labs. For instance, according to reports, 1,482 government-run schools in KP lack computer lab facilities. How then can AI be taught to students who do not even have access to computers?

Furthermore, the policy does not take into account the dynamic nature of AI and technology, and outlines no strategy on how curricula for AI in the education sector will be updated with changes in technology, something that may render earlier curricula obsolete.

The policy does not take into account the dynamic nature of AI and technology.

Whereas the policy mentions use of AI for the environment, it completely ignores the climate-related risks of AI data centres in Pakistan, which, besides being a water-scarce country is acutely vulnerable to the impact of climate change. A large data centre for AI can require up to 5m gallons of water per day — this is the daily amount needed for a town of around 50,000 people.

As Pakistan is one of the

most water-stressed countries in the world, over 80pc of its population faces water scarcity. Therefore, any AI policy with proposals for local data centres should include a mandatory environmental impact assessment condition.

The AI policy includes plans for E-khidmat centres for public services, health, education, sanitation, energy, security and other government services through AI chatbots, smart reporting and centralised service delivery. This raises surveillance risks, especially in the face of the absence of a data protection regime. Further, overreliance on AI when people need assistance and interface with government officials will only mirror current portals and helplines where people never hear back.

There are significant rights implications of this policy, in particular relating to privacy rights and freedom of speech impacts. It is alarming that the policy has been formulated in the absence of a data protection regime in Pakistan as the Personal Data Protection Bill is yet to be passed; however, the AI policy refers to aspects of the bill despite the status of the law remaining unclear. If a strong data protection regime does not exist, it raises serious concern around privacy risks around the large language models that fuel AI systems.

Furthermore, the policy details how an AI directorate will be formed to provide regulatory guidelines to address “disinformation, data breaches and fake news”. It is necessary that such steps entail a robust and inclusive parliamentary process, as such language raises alarms related to freedom of expression.

The policy does not mention the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, which deals with issues such as

disinformation and ‘fake news’ in its amended form as of February 2025, and the overlap that the work of this directorate may have with that of the Social Media Regulatory Authority that the Peca amendments proposed.

The Digital Rights Foundation in its analysis of the policy stresses the “serious questions around transparency, ethical safeguards and protecting marginalised communities from discrimination”, which is imperative considering the risks of discrimination that automated systems in AI pose. In the absence of provisions in the policy on human rights risk assessments, the human rights impact of AI systems in the country are likely to create new issues rather than address existing ones.

Relatedly, the policy includes proposals for special training programmes for women and persons with disabilities, but it does not address the expanded role AI is playing in technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

At an event on TFGBV, a Pakistani man noted that “previously men would throw acid at women to destroy their lives, but now men have to create an AI-generated video to destroy the life of a woman”. This shows the gendered risk that AI poses to Pakistani women and gender minorities in particular, and it should be reflected in the policy.

Lastly, whereas the AI policy addresses expanding AI systems in Pakistan and supporting innovation and education related to it, there need to be specific provisions around developing machine-learning models in languages most common in Pakistan so that reliance on foreign languages reduces and inclusive expansion of AI tools are available to speakers and readers of Urdu, Sindhi, Punjabi, Pashto, Seraiki, Balochi languages.

Manmade disaster

Naseer Memon

Intense rainfall is not uncommon in our plains and mountains. Rainfall exceeding 200mm has occurred several times in every province of Pakistan. ‘Climate change’, ‘cloudburst’ and ‘urban flooding’ are only recent additions to our media lexicon.

Flood disasters, landslides, furious hill torrent flows and terrible droughts have been causing loss of life and damage to property, crops and infrastructure for decades. However, a hysterical media and a clumsy social media have sparked paranoia. The cacophony they have raised has kept us from discussing the underlying causes of these disasters. Regurgitating climate change and cloudburst rhetoric will not prevent catastrophic events.

Three human-induced factors, in particular, have made the hydro-climatic events more intense. Rampant deforestation that has denuded mountains of their green cover, increased obstructions on waterways that impede natural flows and climate-insensitive infrastructure are the root cause of the havoc. August’s second half proved calamitous for the provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan. In one week, the number of casualties dwarfed the total toll of the previous five weeks.

The disaster in these areas did not result from a few abnormal downpours or landslides. Havoc was being nurtured in the belly of the mountains for decades. Malakand, famous for its dense forests, is now infamous for its menacing pace of illegal deforestation. The Swat valley has several areas where deforestation takes place.

The massive logging in Bahrain, Madyan, Kalam, Matta, Malam Jabba, Gabin Jabba and other areas is no secret. The woodlots policy has been blatantly abused in these areas. A news report last year revealed that up to 15 to 20 timber-loaded trucks were being transported to Punjab every day.

Forests are a natural glue that protect mountains

from fragmentation and abrasion. As forest cover thins out, the mountains are exposed to gushing flows. When natural barriers are removed, these flows attain a ferocious velocity that erodes big boulders and rocks.

Boulders roll down these denuded hills into roaring streams that rise from high altitudes and plummet sharply to thousands of metres. Buner, which endured terrible devastation, inclines upwards from 360 metres in the south to reach a maximum height of 2,910m at the Dosara Peak in the north. Given such drastic variations in altitude, a bout of intense rainfall can generate torrents of unimaginable potency.

Forests in Swat were ruthlessly devoured during 2007 to 2009 when the Taliban seized the territory.

The disaster was not caused by a few abnormal showers.

Kashmir tells a similar story. A news report last month mentioned that floods in the Neelum Valley brought a huge bounty of illegally cut timber to Nauseri Dam near Muzaffarabad. Clandestine deforestation in the area intensified the floods. Research based on variations in forest cover maps in 2023 concluded that GB lost over 1,700 square kilometres of forest cover in ten decades. It disclosed that Chilas subdivision witnessed the highest rate of deforestation between 2000 and 2010 when over 8,600 acres of forest vanished from the map. Darel/Tangir and Astore ranked second and third in this race to the bottom. These areas felt the impact of the recent devastation.

The upper Indus Basin is dotted with more than 3,000 glacial lakes that burst due to heavy rains and generated lethal flows. GB’s population has nearly doubled since 1998. New settlements have been created. Careless tourism has further tested the fragility of the ecosystem. The burgeoning population, especially the poor, tend to occupy empty land in the mountains, the river plains.

Extracting dollars

Khurram Husain

You have no doubt heard of ‘overheating’, the word used in economic language to describe an economy that is growing, but at the same time, seeing rising inflation.

This combination of growth with inflation portends trouble because it is a sign that the economy is trying to serve levels of demand that its productive apparatus is not capable of meeting.

Over-extraction is something similar, but on the opposite end of the spectrum. This is when a state tries to extract for itself resources from an economy that the productive apparatus is not able to supply. And that is where we have reached in Pakistan. We are now in a situation where the state is trying to extract dollars and revenues from an economy in quantities that the productive apparatus cannot supply.

Consider the state’s growing appetite for dollars. One data series illuminates this. Look at the net foreign assets, or NFAs, in the State Bank’s monetary data series. This data measures the total foreign currency liquidity in the system. You’ll notice three entries. One tells you how much of the NFA is held by the State Bank. The second tells you how much is held by commercial banks. And the third entry is the total.

Notice that total NFAs are negative for a long time. Start from July 2023, when they are negative Rs1.7 trillion, and notice how the line moves in one long, slow, agonising upward trajectory, pockmarked with dips along the way, until it finally breaks into positive territory on the last day of March 2025. This long, slow, agonising climb out of negative territory is one of the two key elements of what they call ‘stabilisation’, because so long as NFAs are negative, it means the foreign currency liabilities on the system are larger than the assets.

The state is trying to extract more revenues, and more dollars from an economy that is not able to supply these.

It took years for this figure to break out above

the x-axis of the graph, and the journey was marked with strong devaluation of the rupee, strangulation of imports, sharp curbs on cross-border payments, administrative measures on land border crossings, threats and cajoling for money changers and incentives for banks to rake in more remittances through formal channels. In short, it took nearly the full might of the state and central bank, for well over 20 months, to pull this line up from its low point back then to positive territory today.

Now look at the series for NFAs held by the State Bank. Notice how it breaks out above zero back in August 2024 and keeps rising from that point, suffering a few setbacks along the way in late December and early January. By June 2025, it hits a peak of Rs657 billion. Not bad considering its journey began from negative Rs883bn back in June 2023, on the eve of the stabilisation programme. That’s an increase of Rs1.5tr.

Notice how in June this figure drops suddenly back into negative territory, then leaps out of it the next week to a new peak of Rs968bn. This is a sudden outflow due to repayment of a Chinese bond, followed by an equally sudden inflow due to a rollover, so the same liquidity flows out of the system with the repayment and back in again once the rollover is finalised from the Chinese side.

Then look at what happens after that. State Bank NFAs rise massively to Rs1.45tr, and remain stable more or less at the level till today. Meanwhile, NFAs held by private banks plunge, falling from negative Rs353bn when the rollover happens to negative Rs741bn today.

Once plotted on a graph, these three lines will tell a stark story of how all the foreign exchange that flowed into the country once the current account was stabilised with great pain and sacrifice somewhere in the early months of 2023 was then bought and stashed away by the central bank in order to build its reserves. And this frenzied buying is being carried out at a price dictated by the gov-

ernment.

The fact that NFAs of scheduled banks remain negative through all this entire period as the State Bank’s assets rise to levels not seen for years tells us that the state is basically taking all the foreign exchange flowing into the country for itself. And the data shows that this process is intensifying from May 2025 onwards.

This helps explain the rising pressures on the exchange rate in these months. It also helps explain why maybe exporters are holding back export proceeds in anticipation of a potential exchange rate devaluation.

It also helps us understand why money changers were called in one more time a few weeks ago and told to stop trying to sell their dollars in the black market. It helps us understand why the State Bank is not cutting interest rates even though inflation has fallen to historic lows. It also helps explain the large spread between the price of the dollar in the inter-bank market versus the hundi or hawala market, which probably reflects the true price more accurately.

We hit peak stabilisation somewhere in the early months of 2025. From there, we have now moved into over-extraction mode. The state is trying to extract more revenues, and more dollars from an economy that is not able to supply these. At least not as presently constituted. So the state resorts to heightened coercive measures, which is what gives the whole enterprise the look of extraction. This is no longer the pursuit of macroeconomic stability that we are in. This is now a state bleeding its own economy to feed its appetites.

The balance-of-payments crisis that Pakistan faced in the summer of 2022 is what happens when you gun an overheating economy to grow harder and faster. The present juncture is what you get when you try to extract dollars and revenues from a stagnant economy. We have gone from overheating to over-extraction. And the only way out is to either reform, or find an external bailout.

F.S. Aijazuddin

The years ahead are shorter than those already lived. Time therefore to honour two Pakistanis lost to history: Ch. M. Zafrulla Khan (1893-1985) and Eqbal Ahmad (1933-1999). Both shared a deep affinity with the Palestinians and fought, albeit armless, for their cause. Like the Arabist T.E. Lawrence, they too wrote their “will across the sky in stars”.

Chaudhry Zafrulla served as our first foreign minister, and then as president of both the UN General Assembly and the International Court of Justice.

In November 1947, Ch. Zafrulla addressed the UN General Assembly in New York on the plan to divide Palestine. He spoke scathingly of the inequity of a proposed arrangement under which Jews who constituted 33 per cent of the population received 60pc of the area of Palestine. Of the irrigated, cultivable areas, 84pc would go to the new Jewish state and only 16pc to the Arabs.

Despite Ch. Zafrulla’s persuasive rhetoric, the state of Israel came into being on May 14, 1948. The US recognised it the same day.

The ideals espoused by two Pakistanis have been relegated to oblivion.

In Eqbal Ahmad’s case, conflict birthed his pacifism. Wounded during the Kashmir conflict in 1948, he later participated in the revolution in Algeria that led to that nation’s independence from France in 1962. The US involvement in Vietnam agitated him and because he had the support of like-minded thinkers, the US administration longed to get rid of this ‘troublesome’ intellectual.

In 1971, the FBI arrested him on the implausible charge that he, as part of the Harrisburg Seven, planned to abduct Dr Henry Kissinger (then national security adviser to Richard Nixon). After a ridiculously long trial, he and his fellow accused were acquitted. In his later years, like a moth attracted to a flame, Eqbal returned to the US where he became a respected if isolated academic.

His riposte in 1968 to

True South

Samuel Huntington (of The Clash of Civilisations fame) deserves to be recalled. Ahmad identified the perceptible gap between Third World countries’ impatience for change and America’s obsession with order, their longing for national sovereignty and America’s preference for pliable allies, and their desire to see their soil free of occupation and America’s need for military bases abroad.

Both Ch. Zafrulla and Eqbal Ahmad have become prisoners of their own reputations. The ideals they espoused and their voices of reason have since been relegated to oblivion. Mercifully, they have not lived to see Prime Minister Netanyahu flout the authority of the International Criminal Court af-ter it issued his arrest warrants for war crimes and crimes against humanity. So far, Netanyahu has escaped arrest and punishment. The Nazis at Nuremberg cou-ldn’t. Nor have they lived to see President Donald Trump (like some flaxen-haired Samson) pull down the numerous pillars of order that define civilisation, on himself and on us.

The parallel between the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the ongoing Indo-Pak impasse sprang to mind, after reading the Israeli expert M. Horowitz’s book Hope and Despair, subtitled Israel’s Future in the New Middle East (2024). Horowitz argues that Israel faces two choices — continuing confrontation which would lead to partial isolation, or engagement with the enemy. Former PM Yitzhak Rabin pursued the latter. As he put it, “You don’t make peace with friends; you can only make peace with your enemies”. Rabin paid for this belief with his life.

Almost 30 years ago, in 1996, Eqbal Ahmad spoke of the armed minorities in Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia — “armed minorities ruling majorities” — and predicted that “they are going to collaborate with the United States and wherever nec-essary with Israel at any cost”. (The Abraham Accords of 2020 are the first step.)

The recent SCO con-

clave in Tian-jin is the modern equivalent of the Yalta Conference of 1945. At Yalta, the Big Three nations — the US, Great Britain and the Soviet Union — carved the world into dominions of influence. Then, China and India did not matter. At Tianjin last week, China hosted 24 countries representing 43 per cent of the world’s population. The US and Israel could only watch with dismay as China, Russia and India came together to draw the contours of a new global order. (Significantly, the official languages used at Tianjin were Chinese and Russian, not English and French.)

An invisible presence at Tianjin was the late Chairman Mao Zedong. In his famous Red Book of Quotations (1966), he anticipated Trumpism: “The people of all the continents should unite, all peace-loving countries should unite, and all countries subjected to US aggression, control, intervention or bullying [emphasis mine] should unite”. In 1945, the Big Three thought they had triangulated the world. In 2025, a multipolar world has decided that the US, the EU and Nato should not matter. Their True North is being replaced by a Global South.

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Pakistan, China sign \$4.2 Billion MoUs as PM launches CPEC 2.0 to Boost B2B investment

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday assured the Chinese investors to remove all red tape hiccups in investments procedures as Pakistan and China business firms signed massive \$4.2 billion worth 21 memorandums of understandings in different areas.

The prime minister unveiled a bold new vision for Pakistan-China economic cooperation, announcing the formal launch of "CPEC 2.0" during his keynote address at the Second Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference held in Beijing.

Welcoming the high-level delegates, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif described the forum as a reflection of the iron-clad brotherhood between Pakistan and China.

Addressing concerns about bureaucratic delays, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif issued a clear and direct message: "We will not tolerate a second's delay. I recently ensured that a Chinese entrepreneur was fa-

cilitated within 24 hours. That's the level of commitment I am talking about."

He reassured the Chinese delegation of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to investor facilitation, stating that Chinese investors will be treated as partners and that "Pakistan is your second home, just as China is ours."

Security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan, he said was a top priority, adding "the safety of Chinese citizens is paramount."

"This is one of the largest business conferences I have attended during my visit to this great country. Our relationship with China is unmatched, deeper than the deepest oceans, sweeter than honey and stronger than steel," said the prime minister.

Referring to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreement signed in 2015 during President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif credited the first phase of

CPEC with transforming Pakistan's energy and infrastructure landscape.

"We were facing up to 20 hours of power outages daily. Today, thanks to President Xi's dynamic and visionary leadership, Pakistan became energy self-sufficient. That was the turning point," he noted.

PM Shehbaz Sharif announced the launch of CPEC 2.0, which will shift focus toward business-to-business (B2B) investments in agriculture, IT and AI, minerals, and industrial relocation.

"Our agriculture sector employs 60% of our population. China has excelled in this field, and we seek your partnership to modernize our agricultural practices and increase exports," he urged Chinese investors.

He emphasized the role of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in attracting investment, offering competitive advantages such as cheaper skilled labor and joint ventures to produce high-quality export goods.



BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif participates in the MoU exchange ceremony of the 2nd Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference in Beijing.

Khurram urges youth to drive Pakistan's digital future

KARACHI (Online): Advisor to the Finance Minister, Khurram Schehzad, emphasized the vital role of Pakistan's youth in shaping the country's digital economy while addressing the Skill-Up Batch-II Graduation Ceremony at Iqra University, Karachi.

Congratulating the 80 graduates who successfully completed their eight-week training, Schehzad lauded their hard work in diverse fields such as Web Development, Digital Marketing, Video Editing, and Animation, under the mentorship of industry experts. "Youngsters are the achievers. They bring innovation and ideas. Now is the time to step out, make your name, and create an impact to strengthen Pakistan's digital industry," he said.

Highlighting the importance of skill-based learning, Schehzad lauded Iqra University's Centre of Research and Entrepreneurship (IU-CORE) for offer-

ing a platform that equips young people with freelancing and entrepreneurial skills. He noted that Pakistan's freelancing industry is already thriving globally, contributing billions in revenue, but stressed that "a lot is yet to be achieved — and our youngsters will reach that milestone in the near future."

Encouraging the graduates, he advised them to embrace challenges, learn from setbacks, and channel criticism into positive energy. "Obstacles are part of the journey. Failures unleash your true potential. Be the risk-taker as the young population will build a stronger economy for this country," he remarked.

The event was also graced by Prof. Dr. Nassar Ikram, Vice Chancellor of Iqra University, and Waqar Siddiqui, renowned content creator and YouTuber, as Guest of Honor.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves rise to US\$ 19.65bln

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves stood at US\$ 19,659.5 million as of 29 August 2025.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), foreign reserves held by the central bank amounted to US\$ 14,302.5 million, while net reserves held by commercial banks were US\$ 5,357.0 million.

Overall, the country's total liquid foreign reserves reached US\$ 19,659.5 million. During the week ending on 29 August 2025, SBP reserves increased by US\$ 28 million, bringing the central bank's holdings to US\$ 14.3 billion.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where six ships, Hansa Africa, Yuan Xian Fa Zhan, CMA CGM Phoenix, PHC Glory, Ionic Kibou and Al-Diab-II scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Soya Bean Seed and LPG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Grain Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Flora Maris, Etogas, Sarwatgas and Ullswater with Gas oil, Chemicals and LPG are also arrived at outer anchorage on during last 24 hours.

A total of eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them five ships, Al-Slami, IDI, Nakhal Silver, Yuan Xiang Fa Zhan and CMA CGM Phoenix are left the port on today morning, while three more ships, Hansa Africa, Princess Wafya and Al-Diab-II are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Gold, silver rates remain unchanged

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of gold and silver remained unchanged in the local market on Thursday, according to the latest data released by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

The price of 24-karat gold per tola stood firm at Rs. 376,700, while the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also remained static at Rs. 322,959. Similarly, 22-karat gold per 10 grams continued to be traded at Rs. 296,056 without any fluctuation.

In the international market, gold prices showed stability as well, with gold holding at US\$3,540 per ounce.

The local silver market also reported no change. The price of 24-karat silver per tola was recorded at Rs. 4,315, and 10 grams of silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,699. The international silver rate stood at US\$40.82 per ounce.

PPL announces major oil & gas discovery from Dhok Sultan-03 in Potwar region

KARACHI (Online): Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), one of the country's leading exploration and production companies, is proud to announce a significant oil and gas discovery at its Dhok Sultan-03 well, located in District Attock, Punjab Province.

This landmark discovery, the second in the Dhok Sultan Block, is not only a major milestone for PPL and its partner, Government Holdings Private Limited (GHPL), but also marks the second deepest oil discovery in naturally fractured carbonate in the Potwar region, showcasing the company's strong in-house expertise and technical excellence.

This discovery is a result of rigorous geological, geophysical and reservoir engineering data analyses

and integration that helped in overcoming the drilling challenges by optimizing the well design that resulted in saving drilling days and cost optimization.

PPL, as operator of the Dhok Sultan Block with a 75% Working Interest (WI) alongside GHPL's 25% WI, spudded the Dhok Sultan-03 well on 18 January 2025. Drilled to an depth of 5,815 meters, the well tested the hydrocarbon potential of the Patala and Lockhart formations. Testing results were highly encouraging, the well flowed 1,469 barrels per day of oil and 2.56 MMscfd of gas at Wellhead Flowing Pressure (WHFP) of 1,147 psig on a 32/64" choke, and 2,113 barrels per day of oil and 4.13 MMscfd of gas at WHFP of 813 psig on a 48/64" choke.

Asia markets tick up after Wall Street rebound

HONG KONG (APP): Asian stock markets were mostly up Thursday morning, tracking gains made on Wall Street as a weak labour market report in the United States boosted hopes for an interest-rate cut.

European and US equities rebounded Wednesday as a global bond selloff eased, with shares in Google parent Alphabet jumping after a favourable court ruling. Meanwhile, gold reached a new high as investors continued to worry over mounting government debt. Japanese bond yields also hit a new record. Asian benchmark indexes were up in Tokyo, Seoul, Sydney and Taipei during Thursday morning trading.

Shanghai was 0.9 percent lower, while Hong Kong was down 0.2 per-

cent. In Shanghai, shares in leading Chinese semiconductor firm Cambricon—a key competitor of US chip giant Nvidia in the local market—were down by more than nine percent.

A soft US labour market report Wednesday showing a decline in job openings helped lift investor confidence the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates. "The dollar, naturally, buckled under the weight of weaker jobs and lower rates, and increased Fed cut bets, handing Asia an early boost," wrote Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management, in a note.

"When the US dollar slides, Asian assets instantly look more attractive in currency-adjusted terms, and regional equities should snap to life after a sluggish start to September."



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry meets the delegation of Shandong Xinxu Group Corporation, led by Chairman Hou Jianxin.

Pakistan Railways, SSWMB ink deal to enhance cleanliness at Karachi Cantt, city stations

KARACHI (APP): A signing ceremony was held between Pakistan Railways and the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) here Thursday to ensure cleanliness at Karachi Cantt and City railway stations.

The ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi and Sindh Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani. Additional Chief Secretary Local Government Sindh Wassem Shamshad, Chairman Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah, CEO Railways Aamir Ali Baloch, Additional General Manager Infrastructure Hamid Hassan Mirza, Divisional Superintendent Karachi Mehmood-ur-Rehman Lakho, MD SSWMB Tariq Nizamani, and other senior officials were also present.

The agreement was signed by the MD SSWMB and DS Railways Karachi. Under the agreement, the SSWMB will be responsible for maintaining cleanliness inside and around Karachi Cantt and City stations, as well as on trains, using modern technology.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister Hanif Abbasi said that Karachi, being the

country's economic hub, deserves an improved railway system. He added that modern waiting halls have been constructed at Cantt Station to facilitate passengers. Abbasi noted that similar agreements with solid waste companies in Punjab have significantly improved cleanliness standards at railway stations there.

He said the introduction of a modern cleaning system at Karachi's Cantt and City stations, in collaboration with the SSWMB, will enhance passenger facilities.

Sindh LG Minister Saeed Ghani expressed hope that Pakistan Railways would continue to improve its services to provide better facilities for citizens across the country. He assured full cooperation of the Sindh government in ongoing railway reforms and emphasized the provincial government's commitment to providing affordable and quality travel facilities to millions of people in Sindh. Ghani appreciated the federal government's initiative to construct modern waiting areas at major stations in Sindh and assured that the SSWMB will ensure efficient cleanliness management at both stations.

Agricultural sector receives boost through enhanced credit, input support

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government's continued focus on improving agricultural productivity through enhanced input support and financial access has led to a notable increase in credit disbursement and import of modern machinery during the fiscal year 2024-25.

Agricultural credit disbursement rose by 16.3 percent, reaching Rs. 2,577.3 billion in FY2025, compared to Rs. 2,215.7 billion during FY2024. This increase reflects the government's commitment to facilitating farmers' access to timely and affordable financing, says the Monthly Economic Update and Outlook for August 2025.

The momentum was also seen in mechanization, with imports of agricultural machinery and implements surging by 123.9 percent to US\$14.4 million in July FY2026, signaling a rising trend in the adoption of modern farming technologies.

Fertilizer offtake dur-

ing the ongoing Kharif 2025 season (April-July) reflected mixed trends. Urea offtake increased by 2 percent, reaching 1,859 thousand tonnes, whereas DAP offtake recorded a marginal decline of 0.7 percent, totaling 416 thousand tonnes.

According to the report, the government remains steadfast in its efforts to support the farming community by ensuring timely access to quality seeds, fertilizers, credit, and agricultural machinery to help boost productivity and rural incomes.

However, the outlook is tempered by challenges stemming from adverse climatic events, including heavy rainfall and floods, which continue to pose risks to achieving the sector's growth targets, it adds.

Despite these hurdles, policymakers reaffirmed their commitment to sustaining agricultural development through policy continuity and targeted support measures.



KARACHI: - Advisor to Federal Finance Minister, Khurram Schehzad, addressing the audience at the "Skill-Up Batch-II Graduation Ceremony" at Iqra University.

Punjab dominates national livestock sector by housing 104 mln animals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab has emerged as the leading province in the national livestock sector, boasting a population of over 104 million animals including cattle, buffalo, goats and sheep, significantly contributing to the country's economy.

Pakistan's livestock population stood at 251.3 million in 2024, with Punjab holding the largest share at 104.2 million, Wealth Pakistan reported, quoting data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Between 2006 and 2024, Punjab's livestock population grew significantly, reaffirming its position as the leading province in Pakistan's livestock sector, with the highest numbers of cattle, buffaloes, horses, and asses.

The province has demonstrated steady progress in both dairy and meat-producing animals, supported by its fertile land, improved infrastructure, and emphasis on integrated farming.

Sindh follows with 49,966 million animals, in-

cluding 13,458 million buffaloes, 11,206 million cattle, 19,013 million goats, and 4,742 million sheep, along with working animals comprising 0.052 million horses, 0.035 million mules, and 1.081 million asses.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported a total of 48.7 million animals, featuring 22,492 million goats, the highest number among the provinces, and remained the only region recording 0.002 million Yak, Zomo, and Dzomo.

Balochistan accounts for 47.9 million animals, including 18.8 million sheep, 22.9 million goats, and 0.772 million camels, reflecting its arid terrain and pastoral landscape.

For the first time, the Islamabad Capital Territory has been reported separately, previously grouped with Punjab, and recorded a minimal livestock population of just 0.36 million animals from the national total.

The goat population jumped from 53.79 million in 2006 to 95.83 million in 2024, making it the fastest-growing livestock category.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Division, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, in a meeting with the Asian Development Bank delegation led by Director Energy, Joonho Hwang.

Suki Kinari Hydropower project marks First Year of commercial operations

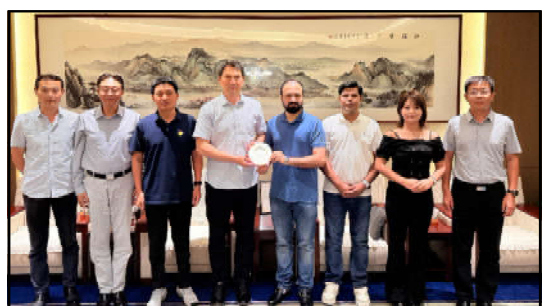
ISLAMABAD (INP): The Suki Kinari Hydropower Station, a flagship project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has completed its first full year of commercial operations. Inaugurated in September 2024, the 884 MW facility has generated over 2.7 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to date, contributing significantly to Pakistan's national grid and helping to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

To mark the anniversary, SK Hydro hosted a Media Open Day at the newly inaugurated CEEC Pakistan Regional Office. Journalists from leading media houses were briefed on the project's performance and toured key facilities, including the CEEC Corporate Culture Exhibition Hall and the under-de-

velopment "Smart Hydropower" centralized control room, which will further enhance operational efficiency.

Project officials noted that the hydropower station has played a growing role in supporting Pakistan's transition to renewable energy, while also contributing to the diversification of the national power mix. Beyond energy production, the project has made notable contributions to local development. At peak construction, more than 6,000 workers were employed on-site, while a series of community-focused initiatives have been undertaken in the surrounding areas.

These include afforestation drives, educational support programs, and the establishment of a trout hatchery aimed at preserving the region's ecological balance.



BEIJING: Chamber of Commerce of Huaiyuan City Mr. Rai, presenting shield to Vice Chairman of the BBOT, Bilal Khan Kakar.

Chinese investors eye Balochistan's rich opportunities: high-level delegation to visit soon: Kakar

BEIJING (Handout): Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade, Bilal Khan Kakar, held an important meeting with Mr. Rai, President of the Huaiyuan City Chamber of Commerce in Beijing, where both sides held detailed discussions on enhancing investment and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

On the occasion, Bilal Khan Kakar stated that Balochistan, the largest province of Pakistan by area, holds a significant geostrategic and commercial position in the region. He highlighted that the province possesses a wide range of mineral resources, including copper, gold, marble, and other precious reserves.

In addition, Balochistan's long coastline and rich fisheries sector provide exceptional opportunities for Chinese

investors. He further noted that projects in energy, renewable energy (solar and wind), agriculture, and food processing are highly attractive for investors, while the establishment of new industrial zones in the province along with the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Economic Zone under CPEC are opening up a new chapter for regional and international investment.

Bilal Khan Kakar emphasized that if Chinese investors make direct investments in Balochistan, it would not only boost trade activities across Pakistan but also strengthen economic cooperation at the regional level, leading to job creation, infrastructure development, and deeper Pakistan-China relations.

Mr. Rai expressed strong interest in Balochistan's strategic importance and natural resources.

Rupee gains 04 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 04 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.66 against the previous day's closing Rs 281.70.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.4 and Rs 283.2, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 04 paisa to close at Rs 328.29 against the last day's closing of Rs 328.33, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.89, whereas an increase of 76 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 378.50 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 377.74.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal declined by 01 paisa each to close at Rs76.68 and Rs75.06, respectively.

SBP injects Rs 554 billion in the market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Thursday injected Rs 554 billion in the market through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operations (OMO) to maintain liquidity in the market.

The central bank conducted the Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) for 4 day tenor on September 04, 2025 and accepted an amount of Rs 544 billion against 8 quotes while another Rs 10 billion were injected through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based OMO.

For the Reverse Repo Purchase of 4-day tenor, SBP received 10 bids cumulatively offering Rs 545.4 billion at the rate of return ranging between 11.00% to 11.10%. SBP accepted 8 quotes amounting to Rs 544 billion at 11.06% rate of return.

Meanwhile, SBP also conducted Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation for the 4 day tenor.

The central bank received one bid offering Rs 10 billion at 11.14% rate of return. The SBP accepted the quote with the entire amount at the offered rate.

Flood risk in Sindh subsides, preventive measures in place

Sarfaraz Bugti's directives ensured early preparedness; joint efforts with Sindh to tackle any emergency: Sadiq Umrani

NASEERABAD (6 AM Report) : Balochistan's Irrigation Minister, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, has said that the threat of flooding in Sindh has largely subsided, but Balochistan remains vigilant with preventive measures firmly in place. Acting on the directives of Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Khan Bugti, the irrigation department has been active from day one, while divisional administrations were mobilized to relocate people to safe areas in case of emergency.

The minister, who recently visited Sukkur Barrage and received a detailed briefing from Sindh irrigation officials, confirmed that the danger has eased. "We had already taken advance

measures to deal with any possible super flood scenario, and monitoring continues on a daily basis," he said during his visit to the Naseerabad Irrigation Division.

Provincial Secretary Irrigation Saleh Muhammad Nasir, Chief Engineer Canals Nasir Majed, Superintending Engineer Ghulam Sarwar Bangulzai, PPP Naseerabad Division President Mir Bilal Sadiq Umrani, Executive Engineer Pat Feeder Canal Farid Ahmed Pindrani, Federal Project Coordinator Engineer Samiullah Baloch, and other senior officials accompanied him.

Minister Umrani stressed that the top priority remains the protection

of human lives, timely relocation of residents, and safeguarding of crops and livestock. He said that through mutual consultation, both Balochistan and Sindh governments agreed on joint measures to secure the western embankment of the Indus River to prevent any breaches.

"With the grace of Almighty Allah, the situation is now under control and the threat has significantly reduced," he said, adding that flood control rooms have been set up with machinery and staff on standby. "The Government of Balochistan stands firmly with the people and will utilize all possible resources to keep them safe from any potential threats."



QUETTA: Member of Provincial Assembly Engineer Zamrak Khan Achakzai and Salma Kakar meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

Step afoot to address education issues for development of knowledge: Raheela Durrani

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Durrani on Thursday said practical measures are being taken to address all related education issue to improve quality of knowledge in the province.

She said that the education is only key sources of any development of the area saying that several non-fictional educational institutions were activated for interest of student future. She expressed these views while talking to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Kalat Division President Javed Khan Lasi, Makran Division President Ashraf Sagar Baloch and others in Quetta.

During the meeting, various suggestions regarding the problems being faced by the education sector in Balochistan, the situation of educational institutions, the challenges being faced by male and fe-

male students, and improvement in the quality of education were discussed in detail.

PML-N officials appreciated the steps taken by the Education Minister for the promotion of education in the province and said that these reforms would not only improve the quality of educational institutions but would also help in leading the youth of Balochistan towards a bright future.

Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Durrani thanked the PML-N leaders and reiterated that the Balochistan government considers educational development as its top priority and would take the suggestions of all stakeholders seriously.

She said that the workers are the assets of the PML-N and you should keep an eye on any kind of negligence.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Food and Chairman Food Authority Haji Noor Muhammad Dumra listening problems of peoples in his Civil Secretariat office.

Markazi Anjuman Tajran backs Sept 8 wheel-jam & shutter down strike across Balochistan

Business community joins call for province-wide closure in protest against Quetta suicide attack, worsening insecurity, and government's failed policies.

QUETTA (ANN): Markazi Anjuman Tajran Balochistan has announced its full support for the wheel-jam and shutter-down strike called by political parties on Monday, September 8. The strike aims to protest against the recent suicide bombing in Quetta and to highlight the worsening security and economic situation in the province.

In a joint statement, Association President Abdul Rahim Kakar, along with senior members including Hazrat Ali Achakzai, Syed Abdul Khaliq Agha, Saadullah Achakzai, Hashim Kakar, Zafar Kakar, and others, appealed to the business community to keep their shops and business activities closed as a show of unity and patriotism.

The traders strongly condemned the September 2 suicide attack at a politi-

cal gathering in Quetta, which claimed 15 innocent lives and injured more than 32. They noted that while senior political leaders, including Mehmood Khan Achakzai and Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, narrowly escaped the attack, "anti-state elements have once again spilled the blood of innocent citizens and workers to destabilize Balochistan."

Markazi Anjuman Tajran leaders criticized both the federal and provincial governments for failing to protect lives and ensure economic stability in the province. "Despite contributing billions in taxes annually, the business community is deprived of facilities and relief. Instead of support, we face daily losses due to highway restrictions, border closures, and lack of industrial development," the statement said.

Mobile, Internet services to be suspended across province on Sept 5-6

QUETTA (UNA): The Balochistan government has announced the temporary suspension of mobile and internet services across the province from September 5 to 6. The decision has been taken as a security measure to maintain law and order during the processions and religious gatherings of 12th Rabi-ul-Awal.

According to official instructions, all government numbers and those already on the approved whitelist will be exempt from the suspension. Citizens have been advised to make necessary arrangements in advance to avoid inconvenience during the service outage.

Grenade attack on new Sariab police station injures bystander

QUETTA (UNA): Unknown assailants hurled a hand grenade at the New Sariab Police Station, which exploded outside the premises. A passerby sustained injuries in the blast and was shifted to the hospital for treatment.

Police reached the scene and have launched an investigation. Raids are underway to apprehend the suspects involved in the attack.

Voluntary repatriation of Afghan nationals continues via Chaman border

CHAMAN (6 AM Report): With the expiration of the federal and provincial governments' deadline for Afghan nationals residing illegally in Pakistan, the process of voluntary repatriation continues through the Chaman Bab-e-Dosti crossing.

Afghan nationals arriving from various parts of the country are being facilitated at the holding camp near the Chaman border. The district administration has made comprehensive arrangements, including food, clean drinking water, washrooms, waiting areas, and tents.

A senior official from the district administration stated that medical facilities have also been provided in the camp. After completing the database registration and biometric scanning, Afghan nationals are being respectfully sent back to Afghanistan in an organized and peaceful manner.



QUETTA: Manager of Balochistan Rehabilitation Water resources Irfan Shah and Malik Naseer Mandokhel meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffer Khan Mandokhel.

Security tightened ahead of Rabi-ul-Awwal processions

Additional police and paramilitary forces deployed at key sites; citizens urged to stay vigilant and report suspicious activity.

QUETTA (ANN) : In the wake of the recent bombing at the Balochistan National Party (Mengal) rally, security has been intensified across Quetta. Police, Rangers, and other security agencies have been deployed in greater numbers at sensitive locations, educational institutions, marketplaces, and main thoroughfares.

The provincial government announced special security measures for Rabi-ul-Awwal processions, gatherings, and other religious events, classifying them under a high-risk category. Authorities have appealed to citizens to avoid unnecessary gatherings and to immediately report any

suspicious activities to the relevant departments.

Checkpoints have been set up along major roads and at public places, where vehicles and individuals are being thoroughly screened. Security officials emphasized that these precautions are solely for public safety and assured swift action in case of any potential threat.

Officials reiterated that a state of alert has been declared in the city, with forces instructed to respond promptly to any suspicious movement. Citizens were urged to cooperate fully, exercise caution, and play their part in ensuring peace and security during the sacred month.

Baloch files HC petition against liquor shops in Gwadar

Lawmakers argue liquor outlets target local Muslim population; call for immediate closure to protect social and religious values

GWADAR (UNA): Member of the Provincial Assembly from Gwadar, Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman Baloch, has filed a formal petition in the High Court against the operation of liquor shops in the district. The move comes after consultation with a panel of lawyers.

In his petition, Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman argued that nearly 95 percent of Gwadar's population is Muslim, while only around 5 percent belongs to minority communities.

Despite this, he said, four to five liquor shops have been established under the pretext of catering to minorities.

The legislator maintained that the real target market of these liquor outlets is the local Muslim population, which he described as a violation of both societal norms and religious values.

He further pointed out that even members of minority communities have expressed dissatisfaction over the presence of such establishments.

FAO delegation visits BFA Assures support to align food safety with intl. standards

QUETTA (6 AM Report) — A high-level delegation from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) visited the headquarters of the Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) to review the province's food control system. The delegation included Mr. Martin Rose, Ms. Oumo Berry, and Dr. Ayesha Ahmed.

The visit aimed to assess the regulatory framework and extend technical cooperation to modernize Balochistan's food safety mechanisms in line with global standards. Director General BFA, Waqar Khurshid Alam, briefed the delegation on the authority's initiatives, emphasizing its mission to eliminate substandard and adulterated food while ensuring safe and healthy nutrition for the public.

The delegation lauded BFA's efforts and assured continued FAO assistance in capacity building, training, and technical support to strengthen food safety measures. They noted that these improvements will not only ensure healthier food supply within the province but also enhance opportunities for food exports from Balochistan.

Commissioner orders crackdown on encroachments during city visit

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Commissioner and Administrator Metropolitan Quetta, Shahzaib Khan Kakar, conducted an inspection tour of various areas of the city on Thursday, including Liaquat Bazaar, Abdul Sattar Road, and Prince Road.

During the visit, he reviewed civic issues, traffic movement, and sanitation conditions. Taking strict notice of illegal encroachments in the market places, he ordered their immediate removal and directed stern action against

those responsible. Shahzaib Khan Kakar said that encroachments are a major obstacle to the city's beauty and smooth traffic flow, stressing that they would be removed at all costs.

He instructed the concerned departments to take indiscriminate action and not allow any shopkeeper or individual to block public pathways.

He also appealed to the public to cooperate with the administration in keeping Quetta clean and free from encroachments.



QUETTA: Commissioner and Administrator Metropolitan Quetta Shahzaib Khan Kakar orders encroachment removal on Abdul Sattar Road during his visit.

Heavy rains forecast in Balochistan from Sept 7-9; risk of flash floods and landslides

QUETTA (UNA): The Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted heavy rainfall across several districts of Balochistan from September 7 to 9, warning both citizens and district administrations to remain vigilant.

According to the Met Office, heavy downpours accompanied by strong winds and thunderstorms are expected intermittently in Barkhan, Musakhel, Loralai, Zhob, Nasirabad, Bolan, Dera Bugti, Kalat, Khuzdar, Sibi, Lasbela, Awaran, Pasi, Ormara, and Gwadar. At certain locations, very heavy showers may also occur.

Officials cautioned that intense rains could trigger flash floods in local streams across eastern and southern Balochistan, with waterlogging likely in low-lying areas. Landslides may also disrupt traffic on major highways.

Citizens have been urged to avoid unnecessary travel during this period, while those on the move should exercise maximum caution. The district administrations have been directed to take proactive measures to minimize risks and ensure public safety in the event of any emergency situation.

2 shot dead in Sorab ambush

SORAB (UNA): Two men were gunned down on the Lakhorian National Highway in Sorab when armed assailants opened fire on their vehicle.

According to Levies sources, the deceased were identified as Rasool Bakhsh Zehri and Talib Ali Ramdazai Mengal, who were traveling towards Jiwa when they were targeted. The bodies were shifted to DHQ Sorab.

Authorities said the motive behind the killings remains unclear. Levies have launched an investigation and initiated a search operation to trace the attackers.

We have to work together for eradication polio disease: Khajak

USTA MUHAMMAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad Razaq Khan Khajak said that that we all have to work together to eradicate a deadly disease like polio from the district. He said that while chairing a meeting at the end of the fourth and last day of the ongoing anti-polio campaign in the district on Thursday evening. The daily progress of the polio campaign, the challenges being faced and their possible solutions were discussed in detail in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by district-level officers, representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), monitoring teams, Union Council Medical Officers (UC MOs) and other concerned authorities. Deputy Commissioner Razaq Khan Khajak appreciated the efforts of the teams working in the field during the campaign. He also directed that further efforts be intensified to reach the remaining children.

The WHO representative gave a brief briefing on the global polio situation and ongoing efforts in Pakistan and lauded the efforts of the district administration. Finally, the Deputy Commissioner thanked all the participants and directed that a detailed report be prepared after the campaign and sent to the district headquarters so that future planning could be done more effectively.

Illegal water channels on pat feeder canal being demolished: Saleh Nasir

No compromise on tail-end farmers' rights; strict action warned against officials involved in malpractice

NASEERABAD (6 AM Report): Provincial Irrigation Secretary, Saleh Muhammad Nasir, has said that the demolition of illegal water channels in the non-command areas of the Pat Feeder Canal is being carried out at a fast pace, and no compromise will be made on the rights of tail-end farmers. He warned that any departmental staff or officer found involved in the malpractice would face strict disciplinary action.

During his visit to the Irrigation Circle, Naseerabad Division, the Secretary stressed that officers must take measures in the broader interest of farmers and resolve agricultural issues promptly. He directed officials to maintain close coordination with cultivators and ensure decisions that directly benefit them.

Chief Engineer Canals Nasir Majed, Superintending Engineer Irrigation Naseerabad Division

Ghulam Sarwar Bangulzai, Executive Engineer Pat Feeder Canal Farid Ahmed Pindrani, Provincial Coordinator Federal Project Irrigation Department Engineer Samiullah Baloch, Sub-Divisional Officer Saifullah Bangulzai, Deputy Collector Irrigation Syed Azeem Shah, and other officers accompanied him.

Secretary Nasir also inspected the office and directed staff to ensure regular attendance so that public complaints could be addressed on time. He emphasized that the irrigation department is playing a vital role in enhancing the fertility of the Naseerabad Division, and it is crucial for all officers and engineers to perform their duties diligently. He reiterated that negligence will not be tolerated, while officials showing exemplary performance will be encouraged at the departmental level to further strengthen efforts in the interest of farmers.



NASEERABAD: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umarani briefing to Media persons regarding flood situation.

BC commandant warns against negligence Strict security directives issued ahead of 12th Rabi-ul-Awal

QUETTA (6 AM Report): A high-level security meeting was held at the Balochistan Constabulary (BC) Headquarters, Badar Line, in view of the current security situation ahead of 12th Rabi-ul-Awal. The meeting was chaired by Additional IGP and Commandant BC, Agha Muhammad Yousaf, and attended via video link by SSP Headquarters, Zonal Commander X-VIII, STAR Director Asadullah, and Zonal Commanders from BC's outzones.

Commandant Agha Muhammad Yousaf expressed serious concern over recent activities of anti-state elements attempting to destabilize Balochistan.

He criticized the growing negligence among some personnel, particularly the use of mobile phones during duty hours, which compromises both public safety and departmental reputation.

He strictly directed all officers to properly brief their subordinates about the current situation, ensure alertness during duty, and strictly prohibit the use of mobile phones while on duty.

He emphasized that

any attempt by hostile elements to snatch weapons must be met with strong resistance, stating, "It is better to embrace martyrdom than to surrender your weapon to anti-state elements."

He warned that any lapse in duty or negligence would lead to strict departmental action not only against the individual but also their in-charge — possibly resulting in termination of service.

Highlighting the religious significance of 12th Rabi-ul-Awal, Agha Yousaf said the day marks the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and is observed with great religious enthusiasm. He warned that such gatherings could be targeted by miscreants and stressed the importance of maintaining a vigilant and organized force to ensure public safety.

He further stated that safeguarding ongoing economic activities, especially those supported by neighboring China and involving foreign experts, is of paramount importance.

These projects are vital for Pakistan's economic development and often targeted by anti-state agents.



QUETTA: Additional IG Police Commandant Balochistan Constabulary Agha Muhammad Yousaf presides over the meeting regarding peace and order for 12th Rabi-ul-Awal.

Shah reviews progress of Mastung District Election Office project

QUETTA (APP): Member Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for Balochistan, Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoo on Thursday chaired a meeting to review progress of Mastung District Election Office project at the office of the Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan.

The meeting was attended by the Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan, Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoo, Director Admin Mr. Naeem Ahmed, Deputy Director Admin Mr. Abdul Wadood, Xen of the Department of Communications and Works (C&W) Mr. Malik Maqsood

Ahmed and other officers and representatives.

On this occasion, Xen Mr. Malik Maqsood Ahmed apprised the participants of the meeting about the details and progress of the ongoing construction work at the District Election Office of District Mastung.

The Member Election Commission of Pakistan, Mr. Shah Muhammad Jatoo expressed satisfaction over the ongoing development progress at the District Election Office Mastung.

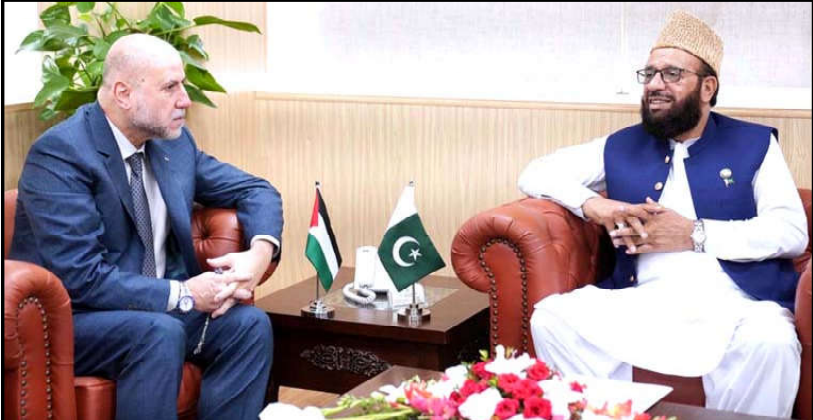
He also directed the concerned department to complete the project within the stipulated time frame and to high standards.

Palestine, a matter not just of one nation or region but of entire humanity: Sardar Yousaf

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf on Thursday reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to the cause of Palestine, declaring it a matter not just of one nation or region but of the entire humanity. Welcoming the Supreme Judge of Palestine and Advisor to the President of the State of Palestine on Religious and Islamic Affairs, Dr. Mahmoud Sidqi Abdul Rahman Al-Habbash, at the conference, titled 'Palestine Wants Peace', organised by the Pakistan Ulema Council, the minister said Palestine has always been central to Pakistan's faith and foreign policy. "Every government of Pakistan has stood by the demand for an independent Palestinian state, and our people continue to extend full solidarity with Palestinians," he remarked. Sardar Yousaf strongly condemned Israeli aggression, calling it "a grave injustice and brutality that cannot be ignored."

He urged the international community, including the United Nations Security Council, to awaken its conscience and play an effective role in resolving the decades-long issue. Highlighting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent statements in China, the minister noted that Pakistan had raised its voice vigorously for both Palestinians and Kashmiris at international forums. He further announced that the 50th Seerat-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) Conference will be held in Islamabad on September 6, coinciding with the country's Defence Day and the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal. The Imam of Al-Aqsa Mosque will also participate in the conference, describing it as a significant occasion symbolizing Pakistan's religious and national unity. "The cause of Palestine is our cause, and Pakistan will never step back from supporting it," Sardar Yousaf affirmed. Meanwhile, the Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, Dr. Zuhair Zaid

lauded the deep-rooted brotherly ties between the peoples of Pakistan and Palestine, expressing gratitude for Islamabad's consistent and principled stance on the Palestinian cause since the country's inception. Addressing the conference, the envoy said Pakistan has always raised its voice in support of Palestine on every global platform, a commitment for which the Palestinian people remain thankful. He noted that Gaza, in its most difficult times, looks not only towards the Muslim world but also towards the entire international community for justice and solidarity. Reaffirming his country's resolve, the ambassador said Palestinians will continue to safeguard their land and the sanctity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) at all costs. He emphasized that despite extreme hardships, the people of Gaza are standing firm in their faith and courage, resisting Zionist aggression with resilience and determination.



ISLAMABAD: A high-level Palestinian delegation led by Dr. Mahmoud Al-Habbash, Chief Islamic Justice of Palestine and Adviser to the President on Religious Affairs and Islamic Relations called on Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf.

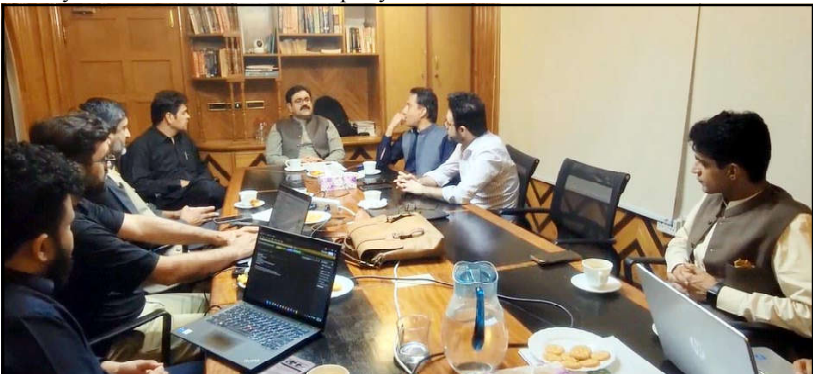
Establishment, agencies ditch people like Sher Afzal after using them: Aleema

LAHORE (Online): Aleema Khan sister of PTI founder has said establishment and agencies ditch persons like Sher Afzal Marwat after using them. "Then no one asks them and they reach this condition, she said this while talking to media men outside Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore Thursday. As per media reports she held judge Sahb approved bail of her sons and it is matter of pleasure. But the way they have lifted them is sorrowful. Imran Khan had said no matter they pick my whole family I will not backtrack from my stance. We are also standing with Imran Khan. What about military trial of Kulbhushan

who has martyred hundreds of Pakistanis. Secret trials were conducted of four elder persons. PTI workers including Hassan were awarded sentence. No right to appeal was given to Hassan Khan Niazi. Imran Khan is arrested in Al-Qadir trust at present. To a question from a journalist Sher Afzal Marwat has said that sons of Aleema Khan are behind all the social media accounts running in other countries she said establishment and agencies ditch such type of men after using them. Aleema Khan said Imran Khan has already expelled him from party. He should now go to some other party.

Five killed, 10 injured in Badin accident

BADIN (APP): Five children were killed and ten other persons injured in a van accident that took place near Pinkeriew Road area of Badin district, TV channels quoting police sources reported on Thursday. According to initial reports, a rashly-driven pickup van was heading towards Dargah Saman Sarkar from Tando M Khan, when suddenly, it overturned near Pinkeriew Road area. As a result, five children died on the spot. The ten other persons were also injured in the same incident. The Rescue team rushed to the site and shifted the dead and injured to hospital. The police team also reached the spot and started investigation.



QUETTA: Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar chaired a critical meeting to review and fast-track the digital transformation efforts within the provincial health department.

Balochistan accelerates digital health revolution to enhance patient care

Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar calls for swift completion and expansion of digital projects across the province

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar has stressed that embracing modern technology in the health sector is essential for timely and effective service delivery. He directed that all ongoing digital health projects be completed promptly and expanded to the district level to ensure that healthcare services are more accessible to the public. The minister chaired a critical meeting to review and fast-track the digital transformation efforts within the provincial health department. The session was attended by Health Secretary Mujeeb ur Rehman, Additional Health Secretary Saqib Kakar, and other senior officials. A technical team provided a detailed briefing on the current and planned digital initiatives designed to modernize healthcare across Balochistan. They

highlighted how the adoption of advanced digital systems in hospitals and health centers will enable precise patient data monitoring while boosting transparency and operational efficiency. Minister Kakar emphasized the urgent need to adopt these technological advancements to improve healthcare outcomes. The meeting concluded with key decisions, including the integration of hospital patient records into an online system, digitizing medicine supply and stock management, and implementing real-time monitoring of field staff performance. These measures are set to transform healthcare delivery and patient care throughout the province, marking a significant milestone toward improving the quality, accessibility, and accountability of Balochistan's healthcare system.

PTI founder's nephew Shershab granted bail in May 9 case

LAHORE (INP): An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Thursday granted post-arrest bail to Shershab Khan son of Aleema Khan and nephew of incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in the May 9, Jinnah House attack case. The bail was approved by ATC Administrative Judge Manzoor Ali Gul against a surety bond of Rs100,000, after hearing arguments from both the prosecution and defense. Shershab's mother, Aleema Khan, was present in court during the proceedings. During the hearing, Shershab Khan's counsel argued that there was no evidence against the accused and that he had not participated in any violent activity. Shershab was arrested for his alleged involvement in the attack on Jinnah House. According to police, a stick was recovered from him at the time of arrest. A day earlier, the same court granted bail to Shershab's brother, Shahrzad Khan, who was also arrested in connection with the May 9 incident.



BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif departs for Pakistan after completing his official visit to China.

CM Bugti vows full support for revival of Pakistan hockey

Meets PHF president Mir Tariq Hussain in Quetta; pledges provincial backing to boost national sport's return to glory

QUETTA (6 AM Report): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti met with Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Thursday. During the meeting, the PHF president briefed the chief minister on the national team's recent performance and preparations for the upcoming Pro League. Chief Minister Bugti congratulated the federation on its achievements, noting that the present leadership has played a remarkable role in promoting hockey not only across Pakistan but also on the international stage. He lauded the national players' perfor-

mances in recent events, saying they had brought pride to the country. He assured the PHF of the provincial government's full support for the promotion of hockey in Balochistan and nationwide, with the goal of restoring the sport to its former glory. In return, PHF President Tariq Hussain Bugti thanked the chief minister, expressing optimism that with the provincial government's cooperation, hockey would flourish once again both in Balochistan and across Pakistan. On the occasion, the PHF president also presented a commemorative souvenir to the chief minister.

Raisani urges Baloch unity, calls for end to military operations in Balochistan and Pashtunkhwa

Former CM stresses recovery of missing persons as state's responsibility; condemns Quetta rally blast as tragic outcome of past policies

QUETTA (UNA): Chief of Sarawan and former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani, has condemned the recent bomb blast at a BNP rally in Sariab, terming it a deeply tragic and regrettable incident. In a statement on social media platform X, Raisani linked the ongoing unrest to Pakistan's past involvement in the Soviet-Afghan war, describing it as a long-lasting fallout of those policies. He emphasized that the Baloch issue is fundamentally political and must be resolved through dialogue. "Military operations in Balochistan and Pashtunkhwa must

come to an immediate end," he asserted, stressing that the recovery of missing persons is 100 percent the responsibility of the state of Pakistan. Raisani also demanded the release of Baloch political prisoners, calling such measures essential for restoring trust. He underlined that the peaceful democratic struggle of the Baloch people is aimed at securing their right to self-rule and access to natural resources. "Baloch unity and cohesion among leaders has now become a pressing necessity," Raisani declared, urging collective political action for a just resolution to the region's longstanding grievances.

Muqam hands over huge consignment of relief goods to Afghans authorities

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Thursday handed over a huge consignment of relief goods to Afghans authorities for assistance of the earthquake victims. On the direction of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam went to Torkhum border in Khyber tribal district where he delivered huge consignment relief goods containing necessary daily use items, food and medicines to authorities of Afghanistan for earthquake victims. Talking to media per-

sons, Engr Amir Muqam said that the people and government of Pakistan stand with Afghans brothers and sisters in these hours of difficulty and this massive relief package was aimed to help the earthquake victims. At least 1469 people in Afghanistan were killed and around 3700 injured besides nearly five million affected in eastern Afghanistan when a 6 magnitude quake struck it on Sunday, collapsing mud-brick homes on sleeping families. He said Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has expressed deep condolences and sorrow over loss of lives and properties during the earthquake in Afghanistan.

The Diplomat: US shifts focus toward Pak, India loses strategic edge

QUETTA (UNA) - Pakistan's balanced foreign policy and effective military diplomacy are gaining recognition on the global stage, with a recent report by the international magazine The Diplomat highlighting Washington's growing preference for Islamabad over New Delhi. According to the report, U.S. strategic priorities have shifted, placing Pakistan at the center of its South Asia and Middle East policy. The publication noted that the recent Pakistan-India standoff altered American perceptions of military strength in the region, weakening India's standing as a "net security provider."

The Diplomat observed that, while India has long been a key U.S. partner, that era appears to be fading. The U.S.-Pakistan relationship, built on shared security and regional interests, is now seen as more relevant. This shift has caused unease in New Delhi, the report stated. The magazine further claimed that India expanded covert interference in Balochistan and orchestrated a campaign of targeted killings, while repeatedly rejecting Pakistan's peace overtures and escalating tensions instead. It added that the May 2025 crisis between Pakistan and India raised fears of nuclear escalation, compelling Washington to step in to mediate a ceasefire. India's persistent refusal to engage in dialogue, the report warned, continues to strain its ties with the United States.

President commends PPP USA for strengthening party's presence abroad

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday appreciated the leadership of Muhammad Khalid Awan, President PPP USA, and his team for their dedicated efforts in strengthening the Party's presence across the United States of America. In a letter to Mr. Awan, the president, who is also Co-Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) noted that the remarkable expansion of PPP USA, with the induction of hundreds of officials, is a milestone that reflects the hard work, unity, and commitment of the overseas chapter. He said this achievement has given new energy and visibility to the Party's ideals of democracy, social justice, and public service among Pakistanis living abroad. Acknowledging the contributions of PPP USA, the president said that in addition to strengthening the Party, their work also fosters closer ties between the people of Pakistan and the Pakistani-American community.

Samina Zehri meets Australian HC, calls for peace and dev. in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri warmly welcomed the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan and held a detailed discussion on key issues including peace in Balochistan, human rights, interfaith harmony, and economic opportunities through mining and development. The discussion commenced with an exchange of condolences and expressions of concern over the recent terrorist attack, which has inflicted profound distress on the people of the province as well as the country. The participants underscored the importance of adopting a comprehensive strategy that integrates security measures with dialogue, political engagement, socio-economic empowerment, and interfaith harmony to address the root causes of unrest. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri highlighted challenges faced in Balochistan, including limited communication facilities, restricted job opportunities, and the need for stronger governance mechanisms to reduce public frustration. She stressed that long-term stability requires not only security but also investment in human development, particularly in education, health, women's empowerment, and the promotion of interfaith understanding to strengthen social cohesion.

Wajiha, UNESCO Chief Fuad Pashayev discuss avenues of collaboration in education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajiha Qamar, held an important meeting with UNESCO Chief Fuad Pashayev to discuss avenues of collaboration in the fields of education and cultural heritage in Pakistan. During the meeting, both sides highlighted the significance of promoting inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all, in line with Pakistan's national education priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Wajiha Qamar emphasized the Government's commitment to expanding access to education, reducing the number of out-of-school children, and enhancing quality standards through policy reforms and institutional strengthening.

Governor Mandokhel says Efforts underway to provide scholarships, laptops to students

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel said that we are trying to arrange scholarships and laptops for provision of students with the aim to improve their quality education. He said that there are great hopes and expectations attached to the students of Girls Cadet College Quetta that great officers and doctors of the future would emerge from this college. He expressed these views while talking to the students of Girls Cadet College Quetta during visit of the Governor House Quetta. Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshirwani and Principal of Girls Cadet College Quetta Brigadier Mirza Faisal Baig were also present on the occasion. The Governor welcomed the students of Girls Cadet College on their first visit to the Governor House Quetta and hoped that today's visit would increase your knowledge and information. He said that we are sure that you would play

the role of a role model for the girls of the entire province saying that a person can improve his analytical ability and observation skills by visiting historical places. In the Governor House, you have been shown rare birds and trees of the British era, in addition to photographs, sculptures and historical artifacts, he said. In response to a question, the Governor of Balochistan said that we are trying to arrange scholarships and laptops for provision of students. Jaffar Khan Mandokhel appreciated the efforts of the Principal of Girls Cadet College and team and said that along with quality education, you are paying full attention to improving the morals and character of the students, which is having positive effects. He said that the coming time is yours. If the continuity of Girls Cadet College Quetta continues in the same way, the day is not far when girls from other provinces would also be attracted to pursue education here.

Romanian envoy calls on Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Romania Mr. Dan Stoenescu, called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif here Thursday. The meeting focused on the decades-old relations between Pakistan and Romania, which this year mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties, said a press release. The Defence Minister underscored the importance of Romania as a valued member of the European Union and highlighted its potential for building stronger defence relations with Pakistan. He appreciated Romania's participation in multinational military exer-

cises organized by Pakistan, noting that such engagements reflect the shared commitment to peace and stability. Both sides agreed on the need to enhance collaboration in the defence sector, including strengthening ties with Romanian defence forces, fostering regular exchanges of experts, and expanding interaction between defence personnel. The Romanian Ambassador acknowledged Pakistan's significant role as a strong regional player contributing to peace and stability, and expressed Romania's readiness to further broaden bilateral cooperation.

Qatar lauds sacrifices of Pakistan Armed Forces in fight against terrorism



RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M) called on Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al Thani and Qatar Armed Forces Chief Lt General (Pilot) Jassim Mohammad Ahmed Al-Mannal. The JCSC is on an official visit to Qatar to attend second round of Higher Military Cooperation Committee (HMCC) meeting, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here Thursday. During the interaction, both sides discussed the evolving regional security dynamics and reaffirmed

their shared commitment to peace and stability at regional and global level. The Chairman JCSC highlighted historic brotherly ties between both nations and discussed the future dimensions of cooperation in defence and security domains within the ambit of Higher Military Cooperation Committee. The civil and military leadership of Qatar acknowledged Pakistan's pivotal and responsible role in ensuring regional stability and appreciated professionalism and sacrifices of Pakistan Armed Forces in fight against terrorism. Earlier, upon arrival at Qatar Armed Forces Headquarters, a smartly turned out military contingent presented "Guard of Honour" to the Chairman JCSC.

Akhtar Jan Mengal visits blast victims at Quetta civil hospital

Pledges to continue struggle for people's rights despite terrorism threats



QUETTA (Staff Report): Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) President, Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, visited the Trauma Center of Civil Hospital Quetta to inquire about the health of party leaders and workers injured in the recent suicide attack. During the visit, he met with senior BNP leader and Human Rights Secretary Haji Ahmad Nawaz Baloch, senior leader Haji Muhammad Sadiq Mengal, and several other injured party workers. Mengal was accompanied by Mir Nazir Baloch, Mir Akhtar

Hussain Langov, Senator Sana Baloch, and Nawab Niaz Jan Zehri. Former BNP MPA Titus Johnson also visited the hospital a day earlier, expressing solidarity with the injured leaders and party workers. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal said that acts of terrorism cannot intimidate BNP workers, nor will they deter the party from its struggle for principles and the rights of the people. He demanded that those involved in the heinous incident be brought to justice without delay.