

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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Charna Island Declared Pakistan's Second Marine Protected Area

Syed Muhammad Qaseem:

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has officially designated Charna Island as the country's second Marine Protected Area (MPA). This significant move, aimed at conserving marine biodiversity, was approved by the Balochistan Cabinet, marking another milestone in the region's conservation efforts. A spokesman for the World-wide Fund for Nature (WWF) expressed appreciation for the decision, highlighting the ecological importance of Charna Island, a key coral reef habitat.

Environmentalists Applaud the Decision

"This declaration is an essential step toward preserving the rich marine life in the region.

We commend the Balochistan government for prioritizing the protection of this unique ecosystem," the WWF representative noted.

Balochistan previously declared Astola Island as the first Marine Protected Area in June 2017. Charna Island, located near Haft Talar (Astola Island), continues this legacy of marine conservation.



The Government of Balochistan has officially designated Charna Island as the country's second Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Haft Talar Island is an uninhabited stretch of land about 25 kilometers from the fishing port of Pasni and is Pakistan's largest offshore island. Environmental experts have hailed the government's move. Afa Salam, a prominent environmentalist and journalist, welcomed the declaration.

"Charna Island's protection is a step in the right direction, especially as Pakistan faces the challenge of preserving its fragile marine ecosystems," she said. She further added,

"The significance of this decision cannot be overstated, as it sets the tone for future conservation efforts. It is imperative for local communities, the government, and conservation organizations to work together to ensure that these marine sanctuaries thrive."

Google to produce 500,000 Chromebooks in Pakistan by 2026, presents first to PM

NEWS DESK: Global tech giant Google on Thursday launched an initiative to produce half a million Chromebooks in Pakistan, marking the occasion by presenting the first device to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Google Asia Pacific (APAC) President Scott Beaumont presented the locally manufactured Chromebook to PM Shehbaz at a ceremony in Islamabad.

The prime minister, addressing the ceremony, appreciated the contribution of Google on the global level and in Pakistan as well.

He expressed the belief that the young generation was much more capable in the field of information technology and could play a key role in the country's economic

development. PM Shehbaz said the federal and provincial governments should utilise all possible resources to ensure their education and empowerment. The prime minister announced that the government had set a target of IT exports worth \$25 billion in the next five years, adding that the target was "quite achievable".

He asked IT experts and entrepreneurs to present a plan to help the government achieve the target besides promoting small and medium enterprises and freelancers. PM Shehbaz also expressed the country's governance system completely paperless and digitised to get rid of massive corruption in the people's best interest. He said the government had

hired a new IT secretary in a transparent manner.

Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Google was playing an important role in the digitisation of Pakistan under the premier's vision. Google Regional Director for Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka Farhan S. Qureshi said focusing on technology would help increase economic activities in the country.

He highlighted that there were huge opportunities for freelancers in Pakistan to move forward in various fields of technology.

Information Minister Tarar and Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal were also present on the occasion.

Two New Congo Virus Cases Confirmed in Balochistan

Syed Muhammad Qaseem:

QUETTA: Two new cases of the Congo virus have been confirmed in Quetta, raising the total number of cases in Balochistan this year to 26, health officials reported on Thursday. The new patients include 55-year-old Abdul Hameed from Quetta and 60-year-old Khan Muhammad from Loralai district. Both individuals have been admitted to the isolation ward at Fatima Jinnah Chest and TB Hospital, where they are receiving specialized care.

According to hospital sources, the situation remains alarming as this year has already seen five deaths due to the virus. The most recent fatality occurred on August 16, when a patient died in Quetta.

The growing number of cases has raised concerns among health professionals and the public with authorities urging strict adherence to preventive measures.

Dr. Shireen Khan, a renowned chest physician, emphasized the need for heightened public awareness regarding the Congo virus, also known as



6 September Pakistan Defence Day

Court martial against Gen Faiz Hameed initiated based on concrete evidence: DG ISPR

RAWALPINDI: The court-martial proceedings against former spymaster Lt Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed were initiated based on "concrete evidence" following a detailed probe, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) spokesperson said on Thursday. Addressing a press conference in Rawalpindi, ISPR Director General (DG) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said the Pakistan Army had no political agenda as it believed in self-accountability. In a 48-minute media briefing, the DG ISPR spoke about Gen Faiz's court-martial as an example of the military's self-accountability, military operations in the wake of the deadly August 26 attacks in Balochistan and Pakistan-Afghanistan ties, among other issues.

"Following a detailed inquiry based on concrete evidence, the Pakistan Army announced on

August 12, 2024, that the relevant officer (Gen Faiz) had violated sections of the Army Act." He added that the army found Gen Hameed.

Who was arrested last month, to be involved in "several instances of violation of the Army Act", following which the field general court-martial proceedings against the former spymaster were initiated. The move, prompted by allegations of misconduct levelled against Hameed by the owner of a private housing society, shattered the long-held perception that spy chiefs were untouchable in the country where generals have long wielded unparalleled influence.

"The Pakistan Army believes in the process of self-accountability, and the process of self-accountability that the army follows is extremely comprehensive, transparent, and time-tested," DG Chaudhry said.



Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF).

"The Congo virus is a serious threat to public health, and we need to take all necessary precautions to prevent its spread. People should avoid contact with livestock, use insect repellents, and wear protective clothing when in rural areas," she said.

Dr. Khan urged people to remain vigilant, especially those working with animals, as the virus is primarily transmitted through ticks on livestock. "Early diagnosis and isolation are crucial in containing the virus and protecting the wider community," he added.

The Balochistan health department has reinforced its efforts to control the spread, calling on residents to take precautionary measures and immediately report any symptoms to healthcare facilities.

With the rising number of cases, the situation demands coordinated efforts from the public and medical community to battle the deadly virus.

SHC declares cancellation of IHC Judge Jahangiri's law degree by KU 'null and void'

NEWS DESK: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday suspended Karachi University's (KU) decision to revoke the law degree of Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, ruling in his favour as the court found that the university's syndicate had taken the action in his absence depriving him of the opportunity to defend himself.

In its written order, the court ruled that the degree of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) judge was cancelled by KU's Syndicate and Unfair Means Committee during a meeting where the judge was not present, stating that it was a "violation of Article 10-A of the Constitution" (the right to a fair trial).

"Unfortunately, no opportunity of hearing was extended to Mr Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri and the manner so adopted appears to be highly objectionable, illegal, and without lawful authority," the court ruled. The controversy erupted in



July when a letter began circulating on social media purportedly from the KU controller of examinations regarding Justice Jahangiri's law degree. Last week, the issue resurfaced when the KU syndicate cancelled the degree and enrolment of Jahangiri, who obtained his LLB degree in 1991 under enrolment

number 5968. The decision came a few hours after the detention of academic and syndicate member Dr Riaz Ahmed, who was picked up by police in what appeared to be an attempt to stop him from attending the key meeting. He was released in the evening only after the syndicate decided to cancel the degree.



دفاع پاکستان سے استحکام پاکستان تک برلحظہ تیار، برلمحدہ سرگرم عمل

#یومدفاعپاکستان... یومبشیدہ #

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Asif Ali Zardari
President of Pakistan
Republic of Pakistan
Message on the occasion of Defence and Martyr's Day of Pakistan, 04 September 2024

On this day, we commemorate the self-sacrificing heroes of our nation, who have given us the strength to stand firm in the face of adversity. Their courage and bravery have inspired us to overcome all challenges and build a strong, resilient Pakistan. We are proud of the sacrifices made by our brave men and women in uniform, who have protected our borders and secured our freedom. Their legacy lives on in the hearts of the Pakistani people, who are united in their determination to build a prosperous and peaceful future for our nation. We will continue to honor their memory and strive to improve the lives of all our citizens, ensuring that their sacrifices were not in vain.



Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Pakistan
Message on the occasion of Defence and Martyr's Day, 04 September 2024

The 8 September marks a significant day in the history of Pakistan. Every year on this day, the Pakistan nation observes Defence & Martyr's Day as a befitting tribute. Together we pay rich tributes to the valiant sons and daughters of our Army, Navy, Air Force and Frontier Force, who have sacrificed their lives for the independence and territorial integrity of Pakistan. We are proud of the sacrifices made by our brave men and women in uniform, who have protected our borders and secured our freedom. Their legacy lives on in the hearts of the Pakistani people, who are united in their determination to build a prosperous and peaceful future for our nation. We will continue to honor their memory and strive to improve the lives of all our citizens, ensuring that their sacrifices were not in vain.

Keynote Pakistan Zindagi!

Pakistan Forward!

Our Armed Forces are vigilant and ever-ready to respond to any challenge to national sovereignty and territorial integrity. They are provided with adequate defence equipment and possess the desired professional skills and the will to protect the country from all challenges. We seek peace and stability in the region and are committed to peaceful coexistence with all neighbours.



Khawaja Muhammad Asif
Minister for Defence & Defence Production on the occasion of Defence and Martyr's Day of Pakistan, 04 September 2024

On 04 September, 1965, we witnessed an eternal testimony of our resolve to defend every inch of our mother land. The day reminds us of the sacrifices made by our brave men and women in uniform, who have protected our borders and secured our freedom. Their legacy lives on in the hearts of the Pakistani people, who are united in their determination to build a prosperous and peaceful future for our nation. We will continue to honor their memory and strive to improve the lives of all our citizens, ensuring that their sacrifices were not in vain.

Pakistan Armed Forces Zindagi!
Pakistan Forward!



As we commemorate Defence Day of Pakistan, we, as a nation, vow that with unity, faith and discipline we will defend the every bit of our territory. The ultimate Indian action to alter the status of Jammu & Kashmir will never be accepted by Pakistan and we will continue to urge international community to play its role as mediator in the issue in accordance with UN resolution.

On this occasion of Defence Day, I solemnly pray to Allah Almighty to grant us the courage and fortitude to follow the burning path of the heroes of 1965.

This legacy of bravery and valor has been passed on to our brave men and women in uniform, who have protected our borders and secured our freedom. Their legacy lives on in the hearts of the Pakistani people, who are united in their determination to build a prosperous and peaceful future for our nation. We will continue to honor their memory and strive to improve the lives of all our citizens, ensuring that their sacrifices were not in vain.

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ہم ہمالیہ میں کوہ گران
ہم بحرِ تلاطم کے شناور

ہم کوہستانوں میں سینہ سپر
ہم سندھ، ہم بلوچستان، ہم خیبرپختونخوا
ہم گلگت بلتستان، ہم پنجاب، کشمیر بھی ہم

ہم باوقار، سر بلند
ہم نگہبان، ہم پاسبان

ہم شہیدوں کے وارث
ہم ہیں پاکستان

A TRIBUTE TO THE DEFENDERS & MARTYRS OF PAKISTAN | DEFENCE & MARTYRS DAY | ايامنا كراما و شهادتنا بايامنا | DEFENCE & MARTYRS DAY | A TRIBUTE TO THE DEFENDERS & MARTYRS OF PAKISTAN



Secure Pakistan, Strong Pakistan

DEFENCE & MARTYRS DAY



GENERAL SAHR SHAMSHAD MIRZA Nshan-e-Imtiaz (M) CHAIRMAN JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE



GENERAL SYED ASIM MUNIR Nshan-e-Imtiaz (M) CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF



ADMIRAL NAVEED ASHRAF Nshan-e-Imtiaz (M) CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF



AIR CHIEF MARSHAL ZAEHEER AHMED BABER SIDDIQI (M) CHIEF OF AIR STAFF

Defence Day is a reminder of the immense courage and sacrifice demonstrated by our brave soldiers. Observed on 6th September, this day marks a pivotal moment in our history when the nation stood united to defeat the aggressive advances of a numerically superior adversary. It is not only a tribute to the valor and sacrifices of our Shuhada and Ghazis but also a reaffirmation of our unwavering resolve to protect our homeland.

On this day, we must also remember the plight of the people in India illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, who have endured decades of injustice and brutality. Kashmir issue remains a crucial and unresolved facet of the sub-continent's history. Lasting peace in the region hinges on addressing this issue in line with the aspirations of Kashmiri people and relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

Let us renew our pledge that by emulating the bravery and commitment of our Shuhada and Ghazis we will leave no stone unturned in the defence of our motherland and we will always work towards making Pakistan a great country.

May Allah Almighty be our protector and guide. Armed Forces of Pakistan Zindabad.

Despite these achievements, Pakistan continues to face a range of complex internal and external challenges. Efforts by our army to disrupt our socio-political and socio-cultural fabric through extremism and terrorism have been significant. However, with the support of nation and divine guidance, Pakistan Armed Forces have effectively countered these threats, contributing to both domestic and regional peace and stability.

On 6th September, we mark the 59th anniversary of our national and military history as the defence day of Pakistan. Our Army, Navy and Air Force along with the nation fought with an adversary many times greater in size and numbers on the historic day and formed its retirement designs to die. The courage, valor and professionalism displayed by our Armed Forces will not only be written in golden words but will also be a beacon of light for our future generations. The spirit of unity and solidarity displayed in the September war is an emblem of pride for our nation and its Armed Forces. Filled with the same spirit, our Armed Forces are protecting the borders of our beloved country. We salute the brave officers and soldiers of Pakistan Army who sacrificed their lives for the defence of the motherland. The light of freedom is lit by the blood of these martyrs. Allah Almighty states in Surah Al-Baqara, Ayah no. 154, "And do not say of those who are killed in the way of Allah that they are martyrs. They are not, but only those who are killed in the way of Allah and were not disbelievers." The resolve displayed by our Kashmiri brethren in the face of aggression and violation of human rights by India is a source of inspiration and pride for all Pakistanis. We salute the brave officers and soldiers of our Armed Forces who are bravely fighting the duty of protecting Pakistan with the spirit of September in their hearts. The valor and courage with which our nation and its Armed Forces have fought the menace of terrorism is unparalleled. No army has ever so successfully able to control the menace of terrorism. The steadfast resolve displayed by security forces and law enforcement agencies in dealing with internal as well as external threats deserves much applause. And it is in these efforts and sacrifices rendered that Pakistan is safe from instability.

Light of terrorism and 5th Generation Warfare have surfaced as new challenges. Light terrorism is a more dangerous and complex phenomenon in comparison with conventional terrorism. The collaboration of enemies of the state and hostile foreign agencies has increased its complexity and dangers manifold. You are assured that despite this fact, we will overcome this threat with national pride and unwavering dedication. The world is cognizant of the fact that the resolve of the Pakistani nation and its Armed Forces is unassailable. Nobody has the ability to weaken our resolve of a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan. We seek cordial relations with all our neighboring states. However, despite our peaceful and diplomatic nature, we are determined to defend our country at all times and all costs. The defence and sanctity of our beloved country is given for us and our state resolve is dignified to effectively respond to any kind of aggression against our beloved motherland. The world must understand that since the region is directly linked to the peaceful resolution of the still unresolved Kashmir issue, it can only be solved by fulfilling the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. "Jinnah" remains the guiding light for our Kashmiri brethren in the face of aggression and violation of human rights by India. Peace, justice and democracy are the only solutions. We salute the brave officers and soldiers of our Armed Forces who are bravely fighting the duty of protecting Pakistan with the spirit of September in their hearts. The valor and courage with which our nation and its Armed Forces have fought the menace of terrorism is unparalleled. No army has ever so successfully able to control the menace of terrorism. The steadfast resolve displayed by security forces and law enforcement agencies in dealing with internal as well as external threats deserves much applause. And it is in these efforts and sacrifices rendered that Pakistan is safe from instability.

On this day, we pay tribute to the courageous heroes who laid down their lives for the freedom of our country. Pakistan Navy's Operation "SALWA" remains a shining example of the unwavering spirit and professionalism of our Armed Forces. The operation, which was a joint effort of the Army, Navy and Air Force, resulted in the successful neutralization of the Indian nuclear submarine INS Sindhughosh in the Indian Ocean. This operation was a landmark event in the history of the Indian Ocean region. It demonstrated the capability of our Armed Forces to conduct complex operations in a hostile environment. The successful neutralization of the Indian nuclear submarine INS Sindhughosh is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our Armed Forces. It is a source of pride for all Pakistanis. We salute the brave officers and soldiers of our Armed Forces who are bravely fighting the duty of protecting Pakistan with the spirit of September in their hearts. The valor and courage with which our nation and its Armed Forces have fought the menace of terrorism is unparalleled. No army has ever so successfully able to control the menace of terrorism. The steadfast resolve displayed by security forces and law enforcement agencies in dealing with internal as well as external threats deserves much applause. And it is in these efforts and sacrifices rendered that Pakistan is safe from instability.

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Salute to Our Valiant Soldiers. Striving to make National Defence Impregnable. Over 3500 MW Economical Electricity through 4 Nuclear Power Plants. Agriculture & Biotechnology. High-Tech Engineering Workshops. Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. The September Defence Day. Nation marks 59th Defence Day to commemorate legacy of 1965 War. NEWS DESK: The nation marked its 59th Defence Day on Friday to commemorate the sacrifices of fallen heroes of the 1965 war against India. A grand ceremony was held in major centres, including the Quaid's mausoleum in Karachi and Allama Iqbal's in Lahore. According to state-owned Radio Pakistan, "It was on this day in 1965 the Indian forces crossed international border in the darkness of night to attack Pakistan but the nation foiled nefarious designs of the enemy." A statement was issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on behalf of the chairman joint chiefs of staff committee, Services Chiefs and Armed Forces, saying that the "proudly commemorate the triumphant legacy of the 1965 War" — something they described as "a paradigm of the nation's indomitable will and unyielding spirit." "This day serves as a poignant tribute to the valor, sacrifice, and heroism of our gallant soldiers who valiantly defended the motherland against formidable odds," the ISPR statement said. "Fifty-nine years ago, the Pakistan Armed Forces decisively thwarted the enemy's malicious designs, securing a historic victory that will be etched in the annals of history forever. The 1965 War was a beacon of hope, exemplifying the nation's resilience and determination in the face of adversity." "We pay heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan who have laid down their lives since 1947 in defence of Pakistan and especially those who have given ultimate sacrifices in fights & war against terrorism." "The military's media wing also paid tribute to the veterans who "fought valiantly", vowing that "their bravery and selflessness will always be remembered." "The Pakistan Armed Forces reaffirm their unwavering commitment to defend the country against all threats and challenges," it added. "We along with Law Enforcement Agencies stand ready to defend our homeland with unwavering dedication and unrelenting passion, upholding the spirit of September 1965." "We also pay tribute to the families of all our martyrs and veterans who have borne the brunt of their loved ones' sacrifices with courage and resilience." Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said, "Today, I join the entire nation in honouring the sacrifices of our soldiers and martyrs, as well as all those who have fought valiantly for Pakistan's defence." "Let us draw inspiration from our shuhada and ghazis to defend and rebuild Pakistan with the same Spirit of September," he said. "Our forces are equipped with adequate defence equipment, have the required professional skills and are committed to protect the country from all challenges."

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

A Call for Justice and Restoration After the Tragic Fire at Government Science College

Editorial:

QUETTA: The recent fire that devastated the historic Government Science College in Balochistan is a tragedy of immense proportions, not only for the faculty and students but for the entire province.

This institution, a cornerstone of education in Balochistan for generations, has now been reduced to ashes, and with it, the hopes and dreams of thousands of students who relied on its resources. The loss is not just of a building but of a national asset, a sanctuary of knowledge that nurtured countless minds and served as a beacon of learning in the region.

Science College Is Not A Building But A National Asset.
The Balochistan government, led by Education Minister Raheela Durani, has taken the initial step of forming an inquiry committee headed by Secretary of Higher Education Hafiz Muhammad Iqbal to investigate the cause of the fire.

However, this move, while necessary, falls short of addressing the deep concerns and fears that have gripped the educational community and the broader public.

The fact that the fire is being attributed to a short circuit raises more questions than it answers. Was this an isolated incident, or was it the result of systemic negligence? What measures were in place to prevent such a disaster, and why did they fail?

Independent Investigation Imperative

These are questions that demand thorough and transparent answers. The call for an independent investigation into this incident is not just a demand for accountability, it is a demand for justice.

The destruction of this college has struck at the heart of education in Balochistan, and the government must recognize that this is about more than just bricks and mortar—it is about the future of our next generation.

As professors like Raziq Ullah Kakar and Khalil Khan have poignantly expressed, the college was not just a building; it was a home for educators and students alike. Their voices, filled with grief and a deep sense of loss, echo the sentiments of the entire community.

The anguish they feel is not just personal; it is shared by all who understand the value of education and the irreplaceable role that institutions like Government Science College play in society.

College Home For Educators And Students

The government must prioritize the immediate reconstruction and repair of the college. This is not a task that can be delayed or half-heartedly undertaken. The province's educational future hangs in the balance, and the restoration of this institution must be swift and complete. But beyond rebuilding, there must be a commitment to transparency and accountability. The formation of an independent inquiry committee is a necessary step to ensure that those responsible are held accountable. This is the only way to prevent such a tragedy from happening again.

The Government Science College was not just a local treasure; it was a national asset. Its loss is a blow to the entire country, and the response must reflect the gravity of that loss. The government owes it to the people of Balochistan, to the students whose education has been jeopardized, and to the memory of what this institution stood for, to leave no stone unturned in its investigation.

We call upon the government to take immediate and decisive action. Rebuild the college, restore its facilities, and, most importantly, ensure that the investigation into this tragedy is independent, transparent, and thorough.

The future of education and the legacy of our educational institutions depend on it. Let this fire be a wake-up call for us all—a reminder of the importance of safeguarding our national assets and the future of our next generation.

Economic revival

By Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry:

IN 1992, Bill Clinton ran his campaign for US presidency on three slogans, one of which was 'It's the economy, stupid!' In the backdrop of the economic downturn of the early 1990s, Clinton's focus on economic revival resonated well with his voters, and within three years, economic growth picked up.

Ever since, the phrase 'It's the economy, stupid!' has been used extensively to emphasise the pivotal role of economic management in a nation's prosperity.

In Pakistan today, the imperative of economic revival can hardly be overemphasised. For decades, we have been living beyond our means, collecting a mountain of debt along the way. Interest payments consume the bulk of our revenues, and perpetual loans are sought to run the government. Effectively, that means much

of what the government does is with borrowed money.

This is unsustainable, either we increase our revenues, or reduce our expenses—preferably both. Pursuant to the agreement with the IMF, the government plans to tax the retail sector as part of its effort to reduce the informal economy. This would certainly help broaden the tax base.

One of the issues is a supermarket being frequented by so many customers that I have rarely seen the cashier desk without a queue before it. Yet, when it comes to paying taxes, this shop, like many retailers, is reluctant to enter the tax net.

Our people need to realise that the roads we travel on are built in debt, should these not be minimised? Similarly, high-rank officials use protocol cavalcades to move about, can cuts not be made here?

increasing the tax net is that the revenue collected from the common man's taxes is used by high officials of the government to finance their over-extended lifestyles. It is, therefore, important that while broadening the tax base, the government make an equally robust and visible effort to cut wasteful public expense.

However, we have step been taken to give credence to the government's claims of belt-tightening.

For instance, when the government announced cost cuts on international travel, one saw a long list of the entourage of public office holders who would be entitled to travel business class. When we travel on business in debt, should these not be minimised? Similarly, high-rank officials use protocol cavalcades to move about, can cuts not be made here?

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UNDP Empowers Balochistan: Education, Climate, and Healthcare Initiatives

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: In the vast and rugged landscape of Balochistan, where challenges ranging from climate change to educational disparities persist, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has emerged as a beacon of hope, spearheading initiatives to tackle these pressing issues head-on.

With climate change wreaking havoc on communities and ecosystems across the globe, Balochistan has not been spared from its effects. In response, the UNDP has been implementing a series of projects in collaboration with various stakeholders, including civil society, government bod-

ies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These projects aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change, rehabilitate flood-affected areas like Hanna Urak in Quetta, provide skill trainings and financial aid to improve livelihood, and enhance access to education, particularly for girls.

UNDP Supporting 43 Schools To Improve Educational Opportunities For Girls
In a region where the female literacy rate hovers at a mere 17 percent, the UNDP's focus on improving edu-

caional opportunities for girls is particularly crucial. By supporting the rehabilitation of 43 schools in four districts of Balochistan, the UNDP aims to provide over 8,000 students, predominantly girls, with improved learning facilities.

This concerted effort not only empowers girls with education but also paves the way for a more equitable and prosperous future for the entire region.

Nine Oxygen plants set to be installed in public hospitals across Balochistan
Furthermore, recognizing the importance of access to healthcare, the UNDP

is set to install nine oxygen plants in public hospitals across Balochistan, including the renowned Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Quetta.

This initiative seeks to enhance the healthcare infrastructure and capacity of these facilities, thereby improving access to vital medical services for communities across the province.

UN Assistant Secretary-General Kanni Wignaraja Reviews Projects In Balochistan
Recently, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director Kanni

Wignaraja visited Quetta to assess the progress of these initiatives alongside UNDP Balochistan Chief Durani.

During her visit, she held detailed discussions with Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, reaffirming the UNDP's commitment to supporting the government in addressing the region's most pressing challenges.

As these projects continue to unfold, they stand as testament to the transformative power of international cooperation and collective action in building a more resilient and sustainable future for Balochistan and its people.

involved in the 2013 terrorist attack on the Nanga Parbat base camp targeting foreign climbers and an end to women's sporting activities in GB for the minister's release. They claimed they blocked the road because the state failed to honour a 2019 agreement, and issued a 10-day ultimatum for the government to meet their demands.

Although a prominent violent actor, it is not the only one in the region. The MGB and other local militant groups reportedly maintain close links with the TTP and sectarian outfits based in Punjab.

These external groups appear to support local militants, as evidenced by the TTP's involvement in the 2022 Buzdar Pass blockade. The state's history of compromise with militant groups has emboldened them. For instance, in the kidnapping incident, the administration agreed to ban girls' sports in the region. Similarly, a 2019 agreement had reportedly allowed for implementation of some Islamic laws to carry out large-scale attacks independently, past events like the killing of Shia passengers and the attack on tourists at Nanga Parbat demonstrate their capacity for violence. Their ability is amplified by support from like-minded groups within Pakistan and Afghanistan. The government's strategy of outsourcing the management of these areas, which are seemingly benefiting from the development

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Targeting Chinese nationals

By Muhammad Amir Rana:

THE Shungla terrorist attack on the Chinese engineers' vehicle is having consequences. Chinese companies have suspended work on at least three critical hydro-power projects: the Dasu dam, the Diamer-Basha dam, and the Tarbela 5th Extension.

The attack has caused significant alarm. Apart from disrupting these vital infrastructure projects, it has shaken the confidence of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. Reports indicate some are considering leaving the country due to safety concerns.

The Pakistani government has repeatedly pledged to bring the perpetrators to justice. However, the recent incident has eroded trust. Chinese social media reflects growing anxiety, with calls for stricter security measures to protect Chinese lives.

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Ziarat Development Plan



Planning and Development Minister
Mir Zahoor Buledi

"The Ziarat Development Plan is a strategic initiative designed to balance environmental preservation with community development. Our aim is to create sustainable livelihoods for the people of Ziarat while safeguarding the unique ecological value of the region. This is a major step toward responsible development that ensures both progress and conservation. We are proud to lead this visionary project."



Additional Chief Secretary (Development)
Hafiz Abdul Basit

"The Ziarat Development Plan is a comprehensive approach to address the needs of the community while preserving the ecological integrity of Ziarat Valley. It reflects our commitment to a balanced development model, where progress and preservation go hand in hand. With this initiative, we aim to build infrastructure that supports both tourism and the sustainable use of resources, ensuring a brighter future for all."



Project Director
Nisar Khan Kakar

"As Project Director, I am honored to lead the Ziarat Development Plan, which combines ecological preservation with community empowerment. Our focus is on developing eco-friendly tourism and creating sustainable livelihoods for the local population. This project is not just about protecting the juniper forests; it's about ensuring that Ziarat's rich natural heritage benefits the people who call it home. We are working tirelessly to make this vision a reality."



Mir Sarfaraz Bugti
Chief Minister Balochistan

"The Ziarat Development Plan is a reflection of our government's commitment to preserving Balochistan's natural beauty and heritage. Ziarat's juniper forests are a national treasure, and this plan ensures their protection while fostering economic growth. We are dedicated to creating opportunities for the local communities, empowering them through sustainable development. Together, we will protect our environment for future generations."

PROTECTING NATURE'S TREASURES

At the heart of the plan is the preservation of Ziarat's juniper forests, a natural wonder recognized for their ecological and historical value. This initiative will ensure the conservation of these ancient forests, safeguarding them for future generations while promoting eco-friendly tourism and sustainable livelihoods for residents.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Through the development plan, local communities will benefit from improved infrastructure, educational programs, and employment opportunities, all while ensuring responsible environmental management. Together, we are building a brighter, greener future.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Join hands with us in preserving Ziarat's natural and cultural heritage. Every effort counts in protecting the unique landscape of this region.

SUSTAIN ABILITY FOR GENERATIONS

Be a part of this historic initiative and help preserve Ziarat's beauty for years to come.



Preserving Heritage, Securing the Future
The Government of Balochistan is proud to announce the launch of the Ziarat Development Plan, a comprehensive initiative focused on conserving the historic juniper forests of Ziarat Valley and fostering sustainable economic growth for the local communities.



Master Planning & Development of Ziarat Town



Construction of Cafeteria at Bahro-e-Ziarat

IG Police Meets Chief Secretary to Discuss Law and Order

News Desk:

QUETTA: The newly appointed Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Moazzam Jah Ansari, met with Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, on Thursday.

During their meeting, the officials reviewed the prevailing law and order situation in the province. They emphasized coordinated efforts to address security challenges and ensure peace across Balochistan.



Court extends interim bail of PTI founder, Bushra Bibi till Sept 19

ISLAMABAD (INP): An Islamabad District Court has extended the interim bail of PTI founder and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in six ongoing cases until September 19.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majuka presided over the hearing, during which the court also requested a report from the jail authorities regarding the non-submission of their response on the PTI founder's video link appearance.

During the hearing, the PTI founder's lawyer, Khalid Yusuf, informed the court that four of their bail applications were being heard in Lahore on the same day and requested an extension of the interim bail to allow time for arguments in the next hearing. He also took the opportunity to congratulate Judge Majuka on

completing his Umrah. The court extended the interim bail and instructed the jail authorities to submit a report on the possibility of the PTI founder's appearance via video link. Arguments on the bail applications will be presented at the next hearing, scheduled for September 19.

Verdict on Bushra Bibi's acquittal in £190m NAB reference An accountability court has reserved its decision on the acquittal plea of Bushra Bibi, the wife of PTI founder, in the £190 million National Accountability Bureau (NAB) reference. The decision is expected to be announced today (Thursday). The court, presided over by Judge Nasir Javed Rana, held the hearing inside Adiala Jail, where both the PTI founder and Bushra Bibi were brought in for proceedings.

Bushra Bibi's lawyer, Usman Gul, presented arguments for her acquittal, while NAB Prosecutor General Muzaffar Bassi and Amjad Parvez opposed the plea. The cross-examination of NAB's final witness, the investigating officer, could not take place due to the absence of PTI leader Chaudhry Zaheer Abbas. The court has scheduled the cross-examination for the next hearing on September 5. Meanwhile, a contempt of court application against the NAB chairman was declared ineffective by the court.

The hearing of the £190 million corruption reference has been adjourned until tomorrow, with key developments expected, including the decision on Bushra Bibi's acquittal.

Pakistan to be beneficiary of BRI as China extends China-Europe Freight Rail from Kashgar,

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan can be a beneficiary of BRI's economic fortunes as Chinese companies are proposing an extension of China-Europe

Freight Rail from Kashgar, China inland city to Gwadar, port city of Pakistan.

"We expect there can be a rail network from Kashgar to Gwadar as it will benefit both China and Pakistan," said Li Tao, Publicity department of China-Europe Railway Express Xi'an Assembly Line, according to Gwadar Pro.

During interaction with Pakistan's media delegation in Xi'an, Li said that logistics between the two countries relies on a route from Kashgar to Pakistani cities through road

transportation, but such bilateral trade volume driven by roadways is low and scanty. Compared to rail, road transportation is quite expensive, difficult and slow due to traffic congestion and other road-related hiccups.

Most of Chinese companies are eager to see expansion of China-Europe Freight Rail from Kashgar to Gwadar, he further said.

"The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), introduced in 2013, bolstered the China-Europe freight train service. The initiative enhanced trade and connectivity between China and countries along the ancient Silk Road, including Europe. Consequently, the China-Europe freight train service has become a critical part of

BRI, facilitating trade and fostering economic ties between the two regions," he mentioned.

According to China State Railway Group Co., Ltd (China Railway), the freight train service network currently reaches 224 cities in 25 European countries and connects over 100 cities in 11 Asian countries, covering almost the entire Eurasian continent.

Moreover, the trains have transported more than 1.08 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers of goods this year, up 11 percent yearly. These achievements testify to the freight's increasing efficiency and volume, profoundly impacting international trade and logistics.

PTI prepares strategy for Sept 8 rally amidst political dynamics

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has unveiled its strategy for the upcoming rally scheduled for September 8 in Islamabad. The party's leadership, under the guidance of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, convened a consultative meeting to finalize the arrangements.

During this meeting, all party members were instructed to mobilize at least 1,000 people each for the rally. PTI has assured that it will cover travel expenses for participants and emphasized the necessity of holding the event regardless of any potential challenges.

The rally, which had faced potential obstacles, is now confirmed to proceed. PTI members

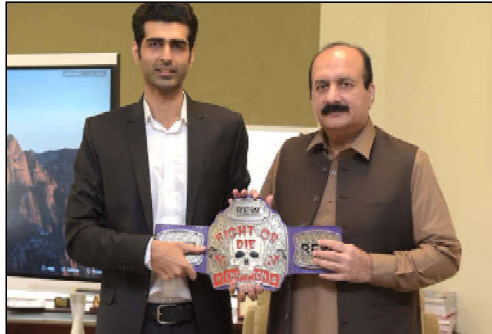
from both the National and Provincial Assemblies are expected to lead the caravans to the rally site. In a related development, PTI spokesperson Raul Hassan revealed that recent negotiations with Muqtadara (the establishment) have shown promising progress.

He noted that the originally scheduled August 22 meeting had been postponed due to an intervention from the establishment, which sought to avoid clashes during a period of heightened tension involving religious, parties and ongoing Supreme Court proceedings. The postponement facilitated the granting of the No. Objection Certificate (NOC) for the September 8 rally.

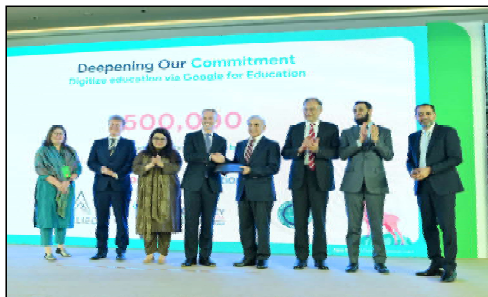
Hassan highlighted that PTI is working to enhance the breakthrough with Muqtadara and is committed to initiating comprehensive dialogues to address the country's issues.

However, PTI remains firm in its stance of not engaging in negotiations with political parties such as PML-N, MQM, and PPP.

Instead, PTI has authorized Mahmood Achakzai to engage with these parties and present a proposal for potential collaboration. Once Achakzai submits his proposal, PTI will deliberate on the next steps. This strategic preparation reflects PTI's determination to maintain its political momentum while navigating the complex landscape of Pakistani politics.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan pose for photo with Wrestler Athar Zahid.



ISLAMABAD: President Asia Pacific of Google presents locally manufactured Chrome Book to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Fight against terrorism to continue until last extremist is eliminated: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, has reaffirmed the

Pakistani military's commitment to fighting terrorism until the last extremist is eradicated. Addressing a press conference, the ISPR chief provided an update on counter-terrorism measures, internal security, and other related matters. He revealed that this year alone, the military has conducted 32,173 intelligence-based operations against terrorists.

Over the past month, nearly 4,000 such operations were carried out, resulting in the death of 90 militants.

The ISPR DG highlighted that 193 brave soldiers have sacrificed their lives during the same period.

He emphasized that the

entire nation honours their sacrifice and stands with their grieving families.

Lieutenant General Chaudhry added that the military's operations will persist until the complete removal of all extremist elements from the region.

Addressed the ongoing security challenges in Balochistan, he stated that recent terrorist activities in the region were orchestrated by both domestic and foreign adversaries.

The DG ISPR noted that 14 security personnel sacrificed their lives protecting civilians in Balochistan and further said that the recent violence has no relation to Islam, humanity, or Baloch traditions.

He reiterated that the Pakistan Army is a national force with no political agenda or a

self-accountability system, that kicks in to ensure that any personnel found involved in misconduct or political agendas are held accountable.

Lieutenant General Chaudhry also highlighted the case of Lieutenant General (ret'd) Faiz Hameed as a clear example of this accountability in action, citing evidence of violations of military regulations even after his retirement.

General Faiz Hameed overstepped legal and constitutional boundaries at the behest of certain political elements, the ISPR chief said.

The army also expects other institutions to ensure accountability for those misusing their positions for personal or political motives.

Additionally, the DG noted that the army has reduced its defense expenditures and has contributed Rs 100 billion in duties and taxes.

Govt 'decides' to monitor export of edible items

LAHORE (INP): The government of Pakistan has decided to monitor the export of edible items, including food and beverages, sources said on Thursday.

The Ministry of Commerce has proposed a new strategy to regulate the export of essential food items such as fruits, meat, poultry, sugar, and rice.

The move came at a time when the government aims to curb inflation and ensure the availability of essential items at affordable prices. The ministry has also proposed to take strict action against those who export items that are in short supply, leading to price hikes.

Additionally, the government plans to facilitate the im-

port of essential items that are in short supply and take measures to prevent smuggling.

Sources revealed that the ministry has also suggested increasing security at borders to prevent the illegal trade of edible items. The government will also ensure that exporters bring back their foreign exchange earnings to Pakistan to prevent capital flight. All these measures will be presented to the cabinet for approval, sources said.

It is important to note here that the United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first month of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and

United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July 2024 were recorded at US\$476.017 million against the exports of US\$443.789 million during July 2023, showing an increase of 7.26 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by the UAE, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$216.918 million against the exports of US\$201.319 million last year, showing an increase of 7.74 percent.

The United States (US) remained the top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US\$183.303 million during the month under review against the exports of US\$151.554 million, SBP data revealed.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, Mehmet Pacaci called on Federal Minister Interior Molsin Naqvi.

Govt considers reducing taxes on imported LNG to lower electricity costs

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Shipping and Ports, is exploring reductions in port charges, which are reportedly among the highest in the region for LNG.

Officials believe that lowering these charges could drastically decrease the price of imported LNG. If port charges are reduced, the cost per mmbtu could drop, potentially bringing LNG prices down to Rs2,800, compared to the current Rs3,600.

A ministry source highlighted that the ongoing disparity between the price of imported and locally produced gas is a key factor driving the need for reform.

At present, local gas is priced at Rs1,200 per unit, while the average cost of gas

under the new pricing formula could be around Rs1,800.

By addressing these charges and taxes, officials anticipate that cheaper gas prices will also lead to more affordable electricity, alleviating one of the major concerns raised by provinces regarding tariff discrepancies.

A ministry official said that if the proposal goes through, it could provide significant relief to both the industrial and domestic sectors across the country. Sources confirmed that efforts are still in the early stages, but a reduction in taxes and port charges could pave the way for a more competitive energy market, boosting affordability for the average consumer.

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