

QUETTA VOICE

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Monday, March 10, 2025

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CM Sarfaraz Bugti Allocates Rs 1 Billion for Quetta's Science College

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, has announced a special grant of Rs 1 billion for Government Post-graduate Science College, Quetta. He also pledged to take the institution under his direct patronage, emphasizing its historical significance as an academic hub for Balochistan's students.

Highlighting his personal connection with the college, CM Bugti recalled that his late father, Mir Ghulam Qadir Bugti, was an alumnus. "This institution has contributed immensely to our education system, and it is time we repay this debt," he stated.

Modernization and Infrastructure Development

The Chief Minister assured that all necessary resources would be provided to transform the college into a center for modern education and research. He directed the Secretary of Communications to develop the institution into a model educational facility, stating, "The provincial government is ready to offer a blank check for this purpose."

During his visit—his second since a fire incident damaged the college—he praised the ongoing restoration efforts. He acknowledged the role of former Chief Justice of Balochistan, High Court, Justice Muhammad Hashim Kakar, in urging him to expedite the college's rehabilitation.

To upgrade the institution, CM Bugti ordered the formulation of a comprehensive master plan, ensuring the completion of key facilities within a year. These include:

- Playground and Hostel Facilities
- Solar Energy Integration
- Advanced IT Park for Students

Govt to update list of banned groups with help of the US: Barrister Aqeel

NEWS DESK: The government will update its list of proscribed and banned organisations with the help of US agencies, such as the State Department, Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik

said on Saturday, adding that people linked to those groups will be subject to travel bans by the US.

The Punjab home department on Friday released a list of 84 proscribed organisations and urged citizens not to give charity to these unregistered and banned entities.

"Providing any kind of assistance to banned organisations is a crime under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997," the Punjab government statement said, adding that the law would punish those assisting banned organisations involved in terrorism and anti-state activities.

Speaking on DawnNewsTV programme 'Doosra Rukh', Aqeel affirmed that there is no risk of a travel ban on Pakistanis.

US to deport more illegal Pakistanis as immigration crackdown continues

NEWS DESK: A second flight carrying undocumented Pakistani immigrants deported from the United States is set to arrive in Pakistan next week, sources in the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said, as Washington enforces stricter immigration policies under President Donald Trump.

The Pakistani Embassy in the US confirmed that eight individuals, including Rehman, Saleem, Nawaz, Salman, Azeem, Khan, and Khalid Masih, will be repatriated aboard a special American aircraft.

Of the deportees, six are being sent back solely for immigration violations, while two have criminal records.

"Two individuals on the deportation list were found guilty of serious crimes, including rape and



Call for Positive Youth Engagement

The Chief Minister urged the youth to pursue education as a means of progress, cautioning against influences that lead them toward unproductive paths. "Some elements are misleading our youth with false promises," he said. He dismissed violence as a means to change, acknowledging governance flaws but asserting that "criticizing the state under the guise of bad governance is unacceptable."

Government's Reforms and Merit-Based Hiring

Emphasizing transparency, CM Bugti highlighted his administration's efforts in curbing corruption, stating,

"From day one, I pledged that no government job would be sold, and we upheld this promise. Merit-based recruitment has been

ensured in the Education Department."

Discussing systemic inefficiencies, he pointed out flaws in the Zakat Department, which spends Rs 1.6 billion annually just to distribute Rs 300 million in aid. He suggested that district commissioners could handle the process more efficiently.

Condemnation of State-Antagonistic Propaganda

The Chief Minister strongly condemned anti-state campaigns on social media, claiming that artificial intelligence (AI) tools are being misused to amplify negative content about Balochistan. He remarked that positive developments, such as the restoration of Science College, are overlooked in online narratives.

He also revealed disturbing security concerns, stating that a female law student was coerced into wearing a suicide vest, which

he described as "deeply alarming." He accused hostile forces of radicalizing Balochistan's youth, while the government is sending them to prestigious global institutions like Oxford and Harvard on scholarships.

Addressing teachers, CM Bugti emphasized their responsibility in shaping young minds, reminding them of their moral duty to guide students toward constructive goals.

Addressing Regional Development Disparities

Rejecting claims that Balochistan is uniquely disadvantaged, the Chief Minister asserted that developmental imbalances exist nationwide, citing disparities between Karachi and Kashmir, Quetta and Pishin, and Lahore and Dera Ghaz Khan. He reiterated his government's commitment to providing opportunities that uplift the province's youth.

Balochistan Zakat Scandal: Rs 1.6 Billion Spent, But Funds Remain Undistributed for Two Years

Staff Reporter:

Quetta: A shocking case of financial mismanagement has emerged in Balochistan, where Rs 1.6 billion has been spent on administrative costs while Rs 300 million in Zakat funds meant for the needy remain undistributed for the past two years.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti exposed the inefficiencies within the Zakat Department, revealing that despite owning 80 official vehicles,

the department has failed to deliver financial aid to deserving recipients.

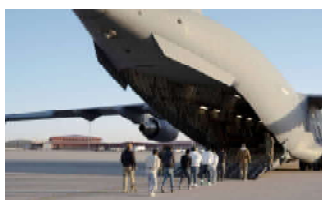
Expressing his frustration, CM Bugti ordered an immediate inquiry and vowed to hold those responsible accountable.

This scandal reflects severe governance failures in



Balochistan, where funds intended for the underprivileged

are being mismanaged instead of reaching those in need.



drug-related offences," an FIA source said.

The aircraft will land at Noor Khan Airbase in Islamabad, where FIA officials and security personnel

will oversee the reception and verification process.

Separately, authorities confirmed the recent deportation of 56-year-old Syed Rizvi, a Pakistani

national who had been residing illegally in Dallas, Texas. Rizvi entered the US in 2017 but was found in violation of immigration laws.

The FBI arrested him on 31 January, and he was officially deported on 25 February. US authorities provided his photograph and details to Pakistan for record-keeping.

"We are closely monitoring all deportees to distinguish between those involved in criminal activities and those deported solely due to residency violations," an FIA official said.

Upon arrival, deportees will be screened for any pending legal cases, questioned about their stay in the US, and assisted in reintegration if they are not involved in criminal activities.

Three Barbers Shot Dead in Panjgur's Gwargo Area

From Our Correspondent: PANJGUR: Three barbers were shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Katagiri area of Gwargo, Panjgur, on Sunday.

According to reports, the victims were identified as Ab Sattar, son of Bajar, and Zubair Ahmed, both residents of Mirpur Khas, and Mohd Zaman, son of Mohd Khan, a

resident of Jacobabad. Security forces and police arrived at the scene, tightened security in the area, and launched an investigation into the targeted attack. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident so far.

Authorities are working to trace the attackers and ensure the safety of workers in the region.



University of Balochistan Staff Still Unpaid in Ramadan Amid Government Negligence

Qasem Shah: QUETTA: Officers, employees, and faculty members of the University of Balochistan remain unpaid during the sacred month of Ramadan, raising concerns over financial hardships faced by the staff.

Despite repeated appeals, the Balochistan government has not yet taken any serious steps to resolve the issue.

In a joint statement, Chairman of the Administrative Officers Staff Association, Nazeer Lehri, along with General Secretary Naimullah Kakar, Vice Chairman Syed Mehboob Shah, Joint Secretary Syed Shah Babar, Press Secretary Abdullah Mengal, Finance Secretary Ismail Parkani, and other executive members, condemned the delay in salaries.

They highlighted that the non-payment of salaries is affecting not only the employees but also their children's education, as the academic year has begun.

Instead of releasing funds, the provincial government has issued orders for deductions in salary allowances, which the association has termed as an unjust move. The representatives urged the Education Minister and Finance Minister to ensure the implementation of Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti's clear directives for the immediate release of funds.

They stressed that timely salary payments are crucial so that faculty and staff can perform their duties with dignity, without facing unnecessary financial burdens.



Former JI senator's brother gunned down in KP's Swabi: police

NEWS DESK: The elder brother of former Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan was shot dead in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swabi, a police official told Dawn.com on Sunday.

The former senator confirmed on social media late on Saturday night that his elder brother, Shakeel Ahmad Khan, was shot dead in front of his house by unidentified gunmen in the village of Ahad Khan in Swabi.

"He was brutally killed in front of his home in an innocent village," Mushtaq wrote.

"My brother was very dear to me, he was my greatest help. It (his murder) is the greatest atrocity."

A separate social media post on Sunday said that funeral prayers had been offered for Shakeel in the same village.

Meanwhile, Swabi District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Azhar told Dawn.com that the incident was "not an act of terrorism" and that two people were

killed and one was wounded in the shooting.

According to the DPO, the incident began in Shakeel's neighbour's house, where his neighbour and his son had a dispute that turned violent.

"The suspect allegedly shot his father, upon which Shakeel went outside the house and tried to intervene, but he was also shot," he told Dawn.com.

"The suspect's father and Shakeel were killed in the incident, while another person was injured and rushed to Kulu Khan Hospital," Azhar added.

A first information report was registered with Kulu Khan police station — a copy of which is available with Dawn.com — filed by Riaz Ahmad, another sibling of the former senator's.

The FIR was registered under Sections 302 (punishment for murder) and 324 (punishment for attempted murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

The DPO said that police are investigating the incident.

Balochistan Doesn't Need New Buildings—It Needs a Future

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Steps taken to check digital harassment against women: Azma

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PM constitutes committee to formulate action plan for empowering women

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Balochistan Doesn't Need New Buildings—It Needs a Future

Editor: Asim Khan

Editorial:

The decision to demolish the historic Balochistan Assembly building and construct a new one for Rs. 5 billion is not just unwise—it is outrageous. At a time when the province is struggling with extreme poverty, a failing education system, and a collapsing healthcare sector, prioritizing infrastructure over people's well-being raises serious questions about governance and leadership.

Balochistan has the highest child mortality rate in Asia, with maternal mortality also at alarming levels. According to the Directorate of Nutrition Cell, 54% of children suffer from stunting, while over 60% of women are anaemic. Hidden hunger, a silent crisis, is worsening health conditions, especially among women. The province's female literacy rate has hit a historic low, and over 3 million children remain out of school. Given these grim realities, how can any rational mind justify spending billions on a new building while millions of people suffer from malnutrition, disease, and illiteracy?

The existing assembly building is not just a structure; it is a part of Balochistan's history and culture. It stands in a secure zone with ample space to function effectively. There is no logical reason to shift it elsewhere. More importantly, in a province where resources are scarce, this massive sum should be directed towards improving the Human Development Index (HDI). Balochistan doesn't need more concrete structures—it needs a healthy and educated population capable of facing the growing global challenges.

The priorities of the government must be questioned. Should Rs. 5 billion be wasted on a new assembly building, or should it be used to improve healthcare, provide clean drinking water, ensure food security, and address the devastating impacts of climate change? The answer is clear to anyone who values human lives over political vanity projects.

Shockingly, most of the opposition has chosen to remain silent on this reckless decision—except Rehman Haidry and Rehman Chohan, who have voiced his opposition. This silence is both disappointing and alarming. If those who claim to represent the people do not stand against such misplaced priorities, who will? Balochistan does not need another building—it needs a future. It needs leaders who understand the struggles of the people. It needs investment in its children, its women, and its environment. If Rs. 5 billion is to be spent, let it be on human lives, not on another structure that adds no real value to the province's future.

Reluctance to talk

By Touqir Hussain:

THE story of Pakistan's ties in recent years revolves around India's rise, and Pakistan's diminished global status. The disparity in power and image of the two is at the centre of India's unwillingness to talk to Pakistan.

India has broken through the South Asian ceiling and acquired its place at the global high table. US patronage has no doubt helped in raising its economic weight, military potential, and diplomatic stature. India now wants Pakistan to take cognisance of its status by being haughty, unapproachable, and reluctant to talk.

The trajectory of US-India strategic and economic relations, enhancing trade, security, defence and technology cooperation, has been in the ascendant for the past 25 years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Washington and his talks with Donald Trump made their own contribution to advancing the US-India relationship further. Peculiarly with America's offer to sell F-35s, America's most advanced military aircraft, As the Economist put it, "America is betting on India's inexorable rise."

India has come a long way from its embarrassing status as an un-

convincing regional power to which its neighbours had the "preliminary" response. It needs a "equal." India feels Pakistan is still living that diminished global status. Pakistan's strategic community keeps complaining that Washington is giving "preferential" treatment to India, as if the two relationships served the same or were interchangeable.

The reality is that America's ties with India and Pakistan are totally different, serving different purposes. Each relationship rose or declined independently, neither limited nor enhanced by the other. India hopes that the refusal of dialogue would force Pakistan to know its place rather than harbour pretensions of being its rival or competitor.

Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar keeps calling Pakistan "irrelevant," implying that India does not need Pakistan as a counterweight to its leverage due to the Afghanistan problem, erosion in its global influence in the Middle East, increased external dependence, and vulnerability to international pressure. This assessment by India no doubt figured in its calculation that its action on Aug 5, 2019, to rescind Kashmir's special

constitutional status would not evoke a serious international response.

It suits India that Pakistan remains under siege.

India thinks that by revoking its special status, it has made Kashmir an internal matter, thus moving it as a subject of a bilateral agenda with Pakistan and making the dispute a non-issue by depriving Pakistan of the opportunity to advance the cause internationally. Dialogue with Pakistan would reverse these 'gains,' as Pakistan would focus on Kashmir at the talks. Dialogue would also attract global media coverage which Pakistan would use to publicise the Kashmir situation. India feels a muted relationship would help it create new ground realities in Kashmir which Kashmiris and Pakistan might come to accept sooner or later.

The lack of dialogue to continue talking about terrorism to malign Pakistan and this disaffected Washington towards Pakistan. The terrorism issue gets highlighted in US-India joint statements, including the latest one after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the US. India's role in fighting terrorism, an interest of Pakistan, enhances India's value as a US ally.

By Farrukh Khan Pitafi:

It has been said and written about President Trump's policies in the short period of 47 days. This administration piques the interest of pundits further because of one important addition: Elon Musk's role as the head of the newly minted Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which has raised many eyebrows.

Many fear that Donald Trump is dismantling the Western-dominated world order to please some of his foreign friends, particularly Russia. This concerns stems from the inquiry into alleged Russian involvement in securing Trump's victory in 2016. That would imply that the 45th and now the 47th US president is a Russian plant. However, this theory, like the aforementioned inquiry, has a fatal flaw—it disregards the agency of the American people.

Suppose he is a Russian asset, and the American people still chose him over his exceptionally gifted opponents (for the second time, with an indisputable majority). What does that say about the agency and free will? And that is not all. While insinuations abound, we have seen no concrete evidence to support this claim.

Seen through a similar lens, Elon Musk is painted as a greedy, power-hungry, Nazi-adjacent oligarch who seeks to crush bureaucrats who challenge his exponential growth. This theory, too, has fatal

flaws. If he is truly in pursuit of American nationalism, why did all liberals turn a blind eye to his convictions just days ago, when he was being hailed as a bleeding-heart liberal hero and the saviour of Mother Earth?

Furthermore, thanks to the Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010), which has resulted in lobbying, the business class already exercises unfettered power in America. Why, then, would the world's richest man expose himself to scrutiny, mudslinging and hatred when he could have achieved the same ends through an established sub-cabinet appointments?

So, what should we make of President Trump's foreign policy and DOGE's persistent rattling of the American bureaucracy? Judging by the promises he campaigned on and the voter response he received in the elections, I would hazard a guess that it has much to do with the potential of the system's inertia. Call it latency, path dependence or systemic inertia—the institutions and systems rarely adapt to changing times, even in the world's most advanced democracies.

This resistance is not necessarily rooted in corruption. Yet, disaffection with the system is palpable. It is a hazard a guess that it has much to do with the potential of the system's inertia. Call it latency, path dependence or systemic inertia—the institutions and systems rarely adapt to changing times, even in the world's most advanced democracies.

Political scientist Paul Pierce has aptly named this idea: "Once established, patterns of political mobilisation, reached for the 'break the glass' option. During Trump's first term, swing voters re-

turned wary of his intentions, partly due to the ongoing Russia inquiry and the mainstream media's relentless campaign. Then along came COVID. President Biden won and attempted to implement positive changes, but public distrust in bureaucracy deepened.

That is why, when media and Democrats painted "Project 2025" as a threat, the average American saw it in positive light. This brings us back to Elon Musk. He, too, was growing wary of the system. Recall how he was excluded from a White House meeting on green energy. It is astonishing that one of the industry's leading figures was left out of the meeting. Musk must have concluded that ideology had replaced pragmatic thinking. Hence, his crusade against the so-called "woke virus."

However, everything that has happened today was telegraphed well in advance by the Republican campaign. Perhaps the most revealing discovery is not financial waste but the continued use of COBOL in government record offices—an emblem of the system's failure to renew itself.

Federal workers are understandably anxious. One hopes they find a way through the current upheaval. As for the international system, a growing consensus among Americans suggests that this is a phase of reorganisation, not destruction.

During Trump's first term, swing voters re-

Technology cannot solve world hunger

By Syed Mohammad Ali:

MORE than 150 Nobel laureates and World Food Prize recipients recently signed an open letter stressing the need to boost food production to avert an impending global hunger crisis.

While the need to address hunger is vital, the approaches mentioned in this high-profile letter seem problematic because they primarily aim to tackle hunger through technological fixes. Yet, hunger instead is more of a social problem.

At first glance, it seems encouraging that a coalition of the world's most celebrated thinkers called for more action to address hunger.

The signatories of this open letter include notable figures such as the Dalai Lama, as well as Joseph Stiglitz, the famous former World Bank economist. This impressive list of signatories was brought together

by Cary Fowler, famous for his work to establish gene-banks which can be used by plant breeders and scientists to develop crops that are able to resist pests and diseases.

Some of the statistics cited in the open letter are indeed alarming. For example, the report notes that 700 million people are currently food insecure. And 60 million children under five remain stunted, which means they have become cognitively and physically impaired due to a lack of nutritional food.

The letter stresses the need to enhance agricultural productivity using tools like AI, computational biology and genomic technologies. However, the WFP has repeatedly pointed out that global hunger is not caused by a lack of food. The world currently produces food for everyone on Earth. But, nearly one-fifth of all food produced each year is either

wasted or lost post-harvest. Many people in the world remain hungry not because of lack of food, but because they lack the resources to buy it. The open letter has not paid due attention to these issues. Although the letter calls for "planet-friendly" efforts to contend with hunger, such assertion can be misleading. Even proponents of genetically modified seeds claim that they offer greener solutions, as they require less pesticides. Nonetheless, on-ground experience indicates that GMO crops such as Bt cotton, genetically engineered to resist worm infestations, have caused significant problems for farmers. Bt cotton seeds are expensive, and they have increased farmer indebtedness, fuelling the rural debt crisis. The new farming techniques caused environmental and ecological havoc.

Although the main thrust of Fowler's appeal is to place faith in technological efficiencies, it did recognise the need to boost research on indigenous crops which can tolerate extreme weather conditions, and to try and reduce food waste as well. These are more sensible and sustainable suggestions, provided they are implemented in a manner which is inclusive rather than being exclusionary. We need more ecologically friendly crops grown by small-scale farmers instead of large agri-corporations. It is also vital to rethink food consumption habits, and to lessen meat consumption. However, instead of aiming to move the world towards more sustainable farming practices and consumption patterns, the appeal spearheaded by Fowler seems keener to push for technological fixes to address hunger, which may exacerbate the existing rural debt crisis. It is time to help people remain hungry in the world today.

Ideas should define power, not interests

By Dr Muhammad Ali Ehsan:

An orientation session for the new students at the university, one of my colleagues mentioned that the children today don't play the games that we used to play in the past. An example she gave was of climbing trees. I agree that the subjective reality is the disappearance of a popular activity of the children climb-or-divide by the iron curtain, now the iron curtain has almost disappeared and the campaign can convert a political and military victory into a defeat.

The big powers that are now the hub of the digital world are using the big data and AI technologies for their disposal. The benefits of executing disinformation warfare. The big wars are being fought now, not in the battlefields, but in the digital space. Networks of all sizes are being controlled by information, which is spreading like wildfire that is holding the audience together.

Similarly, when the conditions changed, we saw the end of the bipolar world, which was substituted by a unipolar world.

In the 21st Century, the conditions have further changed and the digital revolution has almost disappeared and the campaign can convert a political and military victory into a defeat.

For a long time, we lived in a world divided by the iron curtain, now the iron curtain has almost disappeared and the campaign can convert a political and military victory into a defeat.

The two forms of information, misinformation and disinformation, are slippery terms used interchangeably. Mis-

formation could be false communication of a fact that was not deliberate and for which one could later apologise, but disinformation is a deliberate act to misguide and mislead.

The purpose of disinformation is to harm the interests of a country, organisation, or even a public figure. In the age of cyber warfare, it is being used to create uncertainty. If aggressively applied, a disinformation campaign can convert a political and military victory into a defeat.

The big powers that are now the hub of the digital world are using the big data and AI technologies for their disposal. The benefits of executing disinformation warfare. The big wars are being fought now, not in the battlefields, but in the digital space. Networks of all sizes are being controlled by information, which is spreading like wildfire that is holding the audience together.

People have no time to separate fiction and fantasies from reality, and thus are being driven away from the objective truth. Proliferation of disinformation is creating a deeply polarised society. The effects of such 'deep information' are different for a country like ours. So, what is it that we can do to offset the dynamics of a particular disinformation warfare on our society? Start believing that what is impossible is possible.

The world has moved forward to benefit from the third industrial revolution—the digital revolution—and is now producing micro-chips, smartphones and electronic devices, but we have not even mastered the art of producing what was manufactured in the first and second industrial revolutions.

If we have to separate fiction and fantasies from reality, and thus are being driven away from the objective truth. Proliferation of disinformation is creating a deeply polarised society. The effects of such 'deep information' are different for a country like ours. So, what is it that we can do to offset the dynamics of a particular disinformation warfare on our society? Start believing that what is impossible is possible.

General Zia, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and even General Musharraf.

Should the wishful thinking and personal wishes and preferences of leaders be allowed to create a painted portrait of this country that never matches its realistic photo? The Our leader and power was defined in the country in terms of interests.

First it was the interest of joining the American bloc to offset the insecurity we felt from India. Then it was the interest of becoming part of SEATO and CENTO to fight the war against communism. Then we served the American interest of fighting a covert war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. After 9/11 we served the global interest of fighting the war against terrorism.

where to back and serve our own national interests. Most of those have been in the ideas that I mentioned and which we never implemented.

It is then no surprise that twenty-five million children in this country who should be going to schools are out of school? Legislators who won elections are out of assemblies and those who lost elections are in the parliament.

Public figures that people adore are behind bars. The problem is not with the children who no longer climb the trees.

The problem is the disappearance of the peculiar condition—trees. Non-implementation of ideas that serve national interests based on a given leader's preference has been the peculiar problem in our which we have suffered and which needs to change.

Steps taken to check digital harassment against women: Azma

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said the Punjab government is taking concrete measures to protect and uplift women, ensuring equal opportunities in all walks of life.

Speaking at a press conference at Alhama Arts Council, the minister highlighted the challenges faced by working women and stressed the urgent need to eliminate gender discrimination in society.

Addressing online harassment, the minister stated that the Cyber Wing is being strengthened to ensure swift action

against digital harassment and cybercrimes targeting women.

She also pointed out that in Punjab, rape suspects are arrested within 24 hours to provide immediate justice to victims.

She said when the Punjab chief minister took office, she made it clear that violence against women would not be tolerated under any circumstances, and the government was strictly implementing this policy.

The minister said that the launch of the "Pink Button" service, allows women to report any form of violence against them

without fear.

Additionally, she stated that the government had ensured immediate action within 24 hours in cases of acid attacks and other forms of violence against women.

She said that working hostels and daycare centres are being established across Punjab to support working women, so they no longer have to worry about childcare while pursuing their careers.

She also mentioned the "Dhee Rani Programme", under which 1,500 marriages have already been facilitated, with the second phase of

the program set to begin soon.

Discussing women's education and mobility, Bokhari highlighted that female students in Punjab have excelled academically, and to further support them, the government has introduced e-bikes for girls.

Additionally, a special quota for women has been allocated in electric buses to make transportation safer and more accessible.

She reaffirmed the Punjab government's commitment to maximum facilities to women with more initiatives on the way to ensure their safety and empowerment.



QUETTA: Afghan citizen going back their country via Chaman border.

Syria's Sharaa calls for peace as communal clashes continue

CAIRO (INP): Syrian leader Ahmed Sharaa called for peace after hundreds were killed in the worst communal violence since the fall of Bashar al-Assad.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based war monitor, said on Saturday more than 1,000 people had been killed in the two days of fighting in the Mediterranean coastal region in some of the worst violence for years in a 13-year-old civil conflict.

"We have to preserve national unity and domestic peace, we can live together," Sharaa, the interim president, said as clashes continued between forces linked to the new Islamist rulers and fighters from Assad's Alawite sect.

"Rest assured about Syria, this country has the characteristics for survival," Sharaa said in a circulated video, speaking at a mosque in his childhood neighbourhood of Mazrah, in Damascus. "What is currently happening in Syria is within the expected challenges."

Assad was overthrown last December after decades of dynastic rule by his family marked by severe repression and a devastating civil war.

Syrian security sources said at least 200 of their members were killed in the clashes with former army personnel owing allegiance to Assad after coordinated attacks and ambushes on their forces that were waged on Thursday.

The attacks spiralled into revenge killings when thousands of armed supporters of Syria's new leaders from across the country descended to the coastal areas to support beleaguered forces of the new administration.

The authorities executed dozens of youths and deadly raids on homes in villages and towns inhabited by Syria's once-ruling minority who came to help the security forces and have long blamed Assad's supporters for past crimes.

Clashes continued overnight in several parts of the province, where armed groups fired on security forces and ambushed cars on highways leading to main towns in the

coastal area, a Syrian security source told Reuters on Sunday.

A security source added the pro-Assad insurgents were now escalating their campaign, staging hit and run attacks on several public utilities in the last 24 hours.

They damaged a main power station that cut electricity across parts of the province, while a main water pumping station and several fuel depots were disrupted.

"They are now trying to create chaos, disrupt life and attack vital installations," he added.

In Latakia, police mounted new checkpoints inside the city. Two residents said sounds of gunfire and artillery could be heard on the outskirts of the coastal city.

No conflict with Sindh govt: Governor Kamran Khan Tessori

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori arrived in Shah Faisal Colony for his eighth Sehri, where he received a warm welcome from the local residents.

He mingled with the people, listened to their concerns, and took selfies with them. The Governor also had Sehri with the locals at a nearby hotel.

Talking to the media afterward, the Governor said that he enjoys being among the people, listening to their issues,

and sharing moments with them. He expressed happiness over having Sehri and Iftar with the public, which has earned him the title of a "People's Governor."

When asked about his relations with the Sindh government, Governor Tessori clarified, "I have no conflict with the Sindh government. They should fulfill their responsibilities accordingly."

Additionally, he announced that 50,000 students are receiving IT training at Governor

House and offered IT courses to the youth of Shah Faisal Colony without any entry test. He stated that 9.5 lakh (950,000) ration bags have been distributed, and arrangements have been made for Iftar dinners for 1 million people.

Every night after the Iftar dinner, a plot and an Umrah ticket are awarded through a lucky draw.

Addressing the people of Shah Faisal Colony, he said, "If anyone troubles you, tell them that your brother

is the Governor, and for the elderly, I am your son. The doors of Governor House are always open to you." He added that he is not a Governor who remains silent on public issues but will continue to raise his voice for the rights of the people and the city's problems.

The Governor of Sindh also mentioned that the Prime Minister of Pakistan is making tireless efforts to improve the country's economy, and once the economy stabilizes, its benefits will reach the people.



QUETTA: Alhama Maqsood Ali Domki addressing the Palestine Conference organized by Palestine Foundation Balochistan.



JEDDAH: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq delivers statement at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Countries held in Jeddah.

China's digital boom opens global markets for Pakistani businessman

BEIJING (INP): China's digital boom opens global markets for a Pakistani businessman who lives in Yiwu City, that is a global small commodity hub in eastern China. Here Pakistani businessman Rana Sajid found his life's calling. By importing and exporting commodities worldwide, he has built a prosperous career, providing a comfortable life for himself and his family.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, having settled in China for over 20 years, Sajid has witnessed the rapid evolution of China's commercial sector, benefiting from its convenient and business-friendly environment.

In recent years, the digital boom has further propelled his business to new heights.

"Through e-commerce, I can connect with clients on a much broader scale, reaching customers not just locally but across the

globe. Platforms like Alibaba, JD.com, and Pinduoduo have opened doors to markets I couldn't access before," Sajid explains. "What's more transformative is the integration of AI tools like DeepSeek. These tools now help sellers to create professional-quality promotional videos in multiple languages within just 10 minutes. This not only saves time and resources but also helps tailor marketing strategies to specific cultural and linguistic preferences, making it easier to engage with diverse audiences. For instance, I can now target customers in Europe, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East simultaneously, all while maintaining a personalized touch." China has been the world's largest online retail market for 12 consecutive years, offering vast opportunities for both domestic and international businesses.

Yiwu, a city with a population of over 1.9 million, including 1.4 mil-

lion migrants and 18,000 long-term foreign residents, is a microcosm of this thriving ecosystem.

The city is home to more than 1.1 million market entities and over 260,000 cross-border e-commerce businesses.

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into e-commerce has become a game-changer.

In Yiwu alone, nearly 30,000 merchants are already using AI tools to enhance their operations. Last month, an AI-powered promotional platform was launched, offering free services to local businesses. Meanwhile, in nearby Hangzhou, the government aims to develop over 100 demonstration cases of "AI + cross-border e-commerce" by 2026. The digital economy has become a focal point in China's development strategy. During the ongoing Two Sessions, the annual meetings of China's top legislative and advisory bodies,

policymakers emphasized plans to unleash the creative potential of the digital economy, including goals to foster digital industrial clusters.

"For international businesses, AI tools can generate promotional content tailored to Chinese consumers quickly and cost-effectively," said Yang Debin, a deputy to the National People's Congress and president of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) International Information Technology Association.

The Greater Bay Area, comprising Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao, has emerged as a powerhouse for cross-border e-commerce. According to Mohammed Mustafa, Vice President of the Shenzhen Cross-border E-commerce Association, the development of digital infrastructure—such as high-speed internet and advanced payment systems—is critical to realizing the full potential of e-commerce.

Security cameras, advanced surveillance systems to be installed in Punjab schools

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab Education Department has decided to install security cameras and advanced surveillance systems in schools across the region for enhanced security.

Surveillance cameras will be installed at the entrances of schools to monitor activities and enhance security

measures. These security cameras will be equipped with advanced systems which will use facial recognition technology to identify both students and teachers. Furthermore, the Punjab education department will receive daily reports generated from the camera feeds for improved oversight and administration.

According to the Education Department, these cameras will help accurately identify students, teachers, and visitors. On the other side, cameras will act as a preventive against unauthorised access, theft, and vandalism. They also help monitor high-risk areas like entrances, hallways, and playgrounds, ensuring a safer environment for everyone. In cases of emergencies, such as intrusions or accidents, these surveillance systems would provide real-time information to authorities for swift action. In Lahore, where schools often cater to large student populations, these security measures are particularly significant.



QUETTA: Jamhoori Watan Party Secretary Information Shamshah Kurd addressing a press conference.

DJ Adil Khan launches rap song celebrating success of Chinese animated movie NeZha 2

ISLAMABAD, March 9 (INP): Pakistani singer and DJ Adil Khan, presenting a rap song paying tribute to the success of the Chinese animated movie NeZha 2.

The film has garnered international acclaim for its breathtaking animation and captivating story. Adil, who was deeply impressed by the movie's visual and conceptual brilliance, expressed his admiration for the incredible work done by the Chinese filmmaking team.

In his rap song, Adil highlights how NeZha 2 has stunned audiences worldwide with its unique storyline, innovative animation techniques, and cutting-edge visu-

als. He emphasizes that the movie is not only a testament to China's growing dominance in the global film industry, but also a reflection of the unique and distinct content Chinese cinema offers to viewers worldwide.

Adil, who has long been an advocate for international cultural exchanges, believes that the growing relationship between Pakistan and China should extend into the entertainment industry. He proposed the idea of launching a Film Corridor under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which could offer a platform for collaboration between the Pakistani and Chinese music and film industries.

"Pakistan and China have already forged strong economic ties under CPEC, and

differences love to watch good content, and Chinese content has already made a significant impact in our country, especially with Chinese dramas and movies gaining popularity on our television screens."

Adil also underscored the importance of deepening cultural exchanges between the two nations, fostering mutual understanding and appreciation for each other's cultures. He sees this as a step toward broadening the scope of the entertainment industries in both countries and enhancing their global reach.

This is not the first time that Adil has expressed admiration for Chinese accomplishments.

Punjab police repel third Khawarij attack in a week

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Police successfully repelled yet another terrorist attack on a border checkpoint between Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), marking the third major assault thwarted this week. It reports that a group of 20 to 25 heavily armed terrorists launched an attack on the Lashani border checkpoint in Taunsa Sharif using rocket launchers and advanced weapons.

However, Punjab Police officers swiftly retaliated, forcing the attackers into retreat. Reports indicate significant casualties among the terrorists.

The police spokesperson revealed that thermal imaging

cameras played a crucial role in early detection, helping security forces counter the attack in time.

RPO Dera Ghazi Khan and Capt (R) Sajjad Hassan Khan personally commanded the operation, while DPO DG Khan, Syed Ali, led the Quick Response Force (QRF) teams for an immediate counteraction. A search operation is now underway in the border region to hunt down fleeing terrorists.

DPO Syed Ali declared that these cowardly terrorist attacks will never shake the determination of Punjab Police.

RPO Sajjad Hassan Khan reiterated that the morale of the police force is high, and all ter-

rorist offensives will be crushed with full force.

Punjab IG Dr Usman vowed that no terrorist would be allowed to infiltrate Punjab, stressing that officers will stand firm to protect the public at any cost.

With three major attacks thwarted in a week, Punjab Police remains on high alert along the KPK border, determined to eliminate terrorist threats before they can strike again.

Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi paid a high tribute to the police for foiling the terrorists' attack at the Punjab-KP border checkpoint.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting with regard to training of Pakistani Youth in field of digital technologies by Huawei Technologies.

PM constitutes committee to formulate action plan for empowering women

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to include women entrepreneurs associated with cottage industries and small businesses in the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector.

The decision was taken at a meeting in Islamabad on Saturday, to review the ongoing reforms under the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA).

The Prime Minister constituted a committee to formulate a comprehensive action plan for empowering women involved in small-scale busi-

nesses and directed it to submit its recommendations to him. He directed the authorities concerned to empower educated and skilled women in rural and remote areas and facilitate women entrepreneurs in cottage industries on a priority basis.

Shehbaz Sharif directed for establishing facilitation centres to provide specialized training to women in cottage industries so they can improve their businesses.

Read more: Govt announces new loans for students and youngsters

He also directed the au-

thorities concerned to offer low-cost loans to women under the Youth Loan Scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Shehbaz Sharif said the government is taking steps on a priority basis to empower women, who constitute almost half of the country's population.

He said the government will provide all necessary resources and training to women to enable them get employment and run their businesses.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister was briefed on steps taken for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises under SMEDA.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Raza Samad, Tariq Faraz Chaudhry and MNA Anjum Aqeel Khan during a meeting regarding the proposal of setting up the Islamabad Capital Territory Government on the model of New Delhi.

Heavy rainfall expected across country till 16th March

ISLAMABAD (INP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab on Sunday issued a high alert for heavy rainfall across the country from March 9 to 16.

While talking on a private news channel, the PDMA spokesperson cautioned the citizens to stay updated with the weather advisory available on media channels.

He emphasized the importance of staying informed and taking necessary precautions in the current heavy rainfall to ensure safety during their travel plans.

Spokesperson also mentioned that PDMA DG Irfan Ali Kathia also had instructed commissioners and deputy commissioners across Punjab to be on high alert due to the anticipated heavy rainfall. To ensure readi-

ness for any potential emergencies, alerts have been issued to key departments, including WASA.

Rescue 1122, Irrigation Department, Managing water resources, Livestock Department and for ensuring animal safety and well-being.

He said these measures aim to minimize risks and facilitate prompt responses to any situations that may arise.

The department predicted that a system of westerly winds will enter the northern regions of the country tomorrow, with the system persisting until March 16, he added.

Chitral, Murree, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Kashmir are expected to experience rain from March 9 through March 16, he further mentioned.

On Monday, rain is expected to lash the Federal capital, Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal, Peshawar, Charsadda and Mardan, with most cities of Punjab likely receiving rain from March 12 to 16, he said. The national weather body has also predicted thunderstorms with rain in some parts of Balochistan on March 14 and 15. Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta may record some urban flooding due to the rains.

Meanwhile, upper regions of the country are anticipated to experience heavy snowfall, which could result in road blockages.

He also advised fishermen, tourists and travellers to remain cautious and farmers have been advised to take necessary measures to protect crops from damage.

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to announce second monetary policy tomorrow

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan will announce its second monetary policy of the current year on Monday March 10 (tomorrow).

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the SBP will meet tomorrow to decide about the Monetary Policy, the central bank said in a statement earlier.

The MPC will review overall financial and fiscal situation, major economic indicators, data of different sectors and major developments taken place since announcement of the previous monetary policy

while its decisions would be conveyed by the central bank through the Monetary Policy Statement. The SBP could slash the interest rate by one or two percent, experts said.

The bank's current interest rate has been 12 percent while the inflation has dropped to minimum level.

The MPC, in its previous meeting on January 27, 2025, adopting a cautious approach decided to cut the policy rate by 100 basis points to 12 percent owing to continued downward trend in inflation and gradual improvement in economic indicators and current

account.

The committee had noted the improvement in economic indicators including current account balance, inflation, external inflows, monetary management and foreign reserves but it was cautious about inching up of inflation in subsequent months as well as uncertainties in global economic policy environment.

Considering the developments and evolving risks, the MPC had stressed the need for a cautious monetary policy stance to ensure price stability which is essential for sustainable economic growth.

17 FIRs filed against drivers for over-speeding on Motorway

LAHORE (INP): Motorway Police registered first information reports (FIRs) against seventeen drivers for violation of allotted 150 kilometer per hour speed limit on Motorway.

Motorway police officials said that they started a campaign to impose vehicle whose driver will violate allotted speed limit on Motorway while a separate case will also be registered him.

A traffic violation case and e-challan will also be imposed on the driver.

Motorway police officials said that most of penalties were imposed on drivers on M-4 and M-6.

They further vowed that this campaign already underway on all the motorways.

Earlier, on March 6, 2025, in a historic first, a speeding case has been registered against a driver for exceeding 173 km/h on the Multan Motorway (M-4).

The reckless driver has been arrested.

The Motorway Police spokesperson, Syed Imran Ahmad, stated that the incident occurred near Multan, where a vehicle was caught violating the legal speed limit of 120 kilometers per hour (km/h) and travelling at an alarming speed of 173 km/h.

The offender driver named

Rahim Khan has been booked under charges of negligence and reckless driving at Budhia Sant Police Station, Multan.

The driver was taken into custody by the motorway police and then handed over to the local police for further legal proceedings against the charges of over-speeding.

Spokesperson Syed Imran Ahmad reaffirmed that strict actions against over-speeding will continue to ensure public safety on motorways.

This development comes just a week after the 24NewsHD TV Channel reported that the Motorway Police have intensified their crackdown on high-speed driving.

According to the new directives issued by the IG Motorway Police, drivers exceeding the 120 km/h to 150 km/h limit will face heavy fines, while those crossing 150 km/h will not only be fined heavily but also have their vehicles impounded.

The Motorway Police have launched a special campaign to enforce these strict regulations and prevent road accidents.

It is important to note that the prescribed speed limit on motorways for cars is 120 km/h, while for public service vehicles, it is 110 km/h.

Punjab CM directs authorities to amend labour laws for workers' welfare

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed the authorities concerned to amend the labour laws to ensure welfare of workers across the province.

Chairing a special meeting on labour rights here on Sunday, she said: "Hardworking people are friends of Allah; we cannot neglect them. We are determined to make Punjab an exemplary province for workers."

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's responsibility to provide fair wages, medical treatment, better employment, and housing for workers. Approving several key welfare projects, she instructed Provincial Labor Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar to submit a comprehensive plan for labor reforms.

Maryam Nawaz stressed that no worker should go to bed hungry or suffer hardship. She announced better higher education opportunities for the children of laborers and directed strict enforcement of the minimum wage of Rs. 37,000 per month across Punjab.

To further support workers, the CM called for the construction of labour colonies and ordered for revamp of social security hospitals across the province.

Governor announces plots for families of people dying in dumper-related accidents

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori on Saturday announced a plot for each family whose near and dear ones died in dumper-related accidents in Karachi.

He also directed the Dumper Association office-bearers to sell their houses and dumpers to give Rs10 million to each affected family. Tessori further said that injustices were being done to the people of Karachi. "Don't force

them to sell their belongings and obtain arms licenses."

He went on to say that it was his desire that children seek education so that they could contribute to the country's development after growing up.

It is no secret that several people have so far lost their lives in Karachi in recent months in accidents involving dumpers.

to the media, the governor said he would continue to raise his voice for the issues being faced by the people.

He also directed the Dumper Association office-bearers to sell their houses and dumpers to give Rs10 million to each affected family. Tessori further said that injustices were being done to the people of Karachi. "Don't force



NEWSHERA: JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman offering Fatiha during his condolence visit to Jamia Haqqania, Akora Khattak.

Six dead after roof collapses at Afghan camp in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): At least six people, including women and children, lost their lives after the roof of their house collapsed in an Afghan camp on the outskirts of Karachi.

The tragic incident occurred in the wee hours of Sunday at the Janjal Goth Afghan Camp in the Gulshan-e-Maymar area.

According to police, four people were injured in the collapse. The affected family belonged to Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Authorities are currently investigating the cause of the incident.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Ministry of Interior has asked Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, staying in Pakistan, to leave the country by March 31 deadline. The Afghan nationals will be deported from April 1st, the ministry said in a state-

ment. It was said in earlier reports that Pakistan was planning to evict all Afghans from the country but for the first time the Interior Ministry has officially confirmed the development.

"Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Program (IFRP) is being implemented since November 1, 2023. In continuation of the government's decision to repatriate all illegal foreigners, national leadership has now decided to also repatriate ACC holders," the interior ministry said in an official hand-

"All illegal foreigners and ACC holders are advised to leave the country voluntarily before March 31, 2025; thereafter, deportation will commence from April 1, 2025," the statement added.

The interior ministry said

that sufficient time had already been granted for their dignified return. "It is emphasised that no one will be maltreated during the repatriation process and arrangements for food and healthcare for returning foreigners have also been put in place."

"Pakistan has been a gracious host and continues to fulfill its commitments and obligations as a responsible state. It is reiterated that individuals staying in Pakistan will have to fulfill all legal formalities and abide by Pakistan's constitution," it said.

Over 80,000 Afghans living in Pakistan illegally were repatriated to their country since Pakistan launched the campaign in November 2023. It is estimated that around 3 million Afghans still reside in Pakistan.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Farveer Hussain, Chairs High-Level Meeting on PASSCO Operations in Lahore.