

EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

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

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 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, 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 for Rehman Huseini and Maulana Huseini, who has 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 leadership that understands the struggles of its 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.

US-Europe standoff: new geopolitical order challenging BRI

By Dr Shazia Anver Cheema:

The world is not only witnessing rapid geopolitical developments but also surprising ones, leading to varied interpretations. Donald Trump's uncertainty makes it essential to parse public narratives before deciphering their underpinnings and catalysts driving these shifts.

An EU-US rift regarding "global settings" has re-emerged within US foreign policy circles. The last notable phase of this divide was when former German Chancellor Angela Merkel attempted to persuade Trump 1.0 over the Ukraine war.

While the EU currently pushes for continued war, the US advocates for a negotiated settlement centring a rare-earth minerals deal. Beneath the surface lies burden sharing. The transatlantic alliance seeks to divide global responsibility; he has threatened 100% tariffs on BRICS nations and others pursuing de-dollarisation in trade.

This reveals that Trump's strategy is not about peace. His administration appears to be replicating Nixon's 1972 playbook which exploited the Sino-Soviet split to weaken the USSR. The "Reverse Kissinger" approach references the secret 1971 trip that Henry Kissinger made to Beijing to facilitate US-China rapprochement and exacerbate the Soviet-China tensions. A similar strategy in Trump's first term was hindered by the Russia hoax. This is why he has now assembled a team of

neocoervatives and neoconservatives and hawkers, like Marco Rubio as Secretary of State, Mike Waltz as National Security Advisor and Pete Hegseth as Defence Secretary.

However, this strategy will probably fail because unlike the Cold War-era Sino-Soviet tensions, Russia and China currently share deeper economic and strategic ties. While the Trump administration may try to reorient Russia westward, Moscow is unlikely to abandon its Beijing partnership, and the US may further unite these powers.

An economic war with a hybrid-strategy framework might occur. The first target might be China's supply chain infrastructure like the BRI and associated development projects. Terrorist and proxy attacks are already hampering CPEC. Additionally, Western-backed NGOs possibly disrupting BRI projects under the guise of social and environmental concerns is a tested tactic.

Governments in Africa and Europe will be constant pressures to withdraw from BRI and colour revolutions or coups in non-compliance cases cannot be ruled out. Ultimately, Washington's current geopolitical manoeuvring is less about global stability and more about maintaining supremacy in an increasingly multipolar world. The question remains: will the new multipolar global order evolve beyond America's traditional divide-and-conquer strategy?

Access to an information system: Gaining control over part of all of a system, even if security measures are bypassed.

Dishonest intention: Any intent to cause harm, intimidate or create hatred.

Offence: Any punishable act under PECA, except when committed by minors under 14 who lack the maturity to understand the consequences.

Act criminalises the glorification of terrorism, proscribed organisations or convicted terrorists. Convictions carry penalties of up to seven years in prison, fines of up to Rs10 million, or both. Cyberterrorism - offences committed with the intent to intimidate, spread fear, incite sectarian hatred or promote violence. Convictions lead to 14 years in prison, fines of up to Rs50 million, or both. Additionally, using digital platforms for hate speech, terrorist recruitment or funding terrorism is punishable by up to seven years in prison, fines, or both.

Other offences include unauthorised access to critical information systems (up to three years in prison, Rs1 million fine, or both); and disrupting critical systems with fraudulent intent (up to seven years in prison, Rs10 million fine, or both).

While PECA 2016, calling them a serious threat to freedom of expression. Undoubtedly, in the digital age, laws and regulations are necessary to govern online interactions. While modern states recognise the advantages of the cyber world, they are also aware of its potential to infringe upon individual rights. Consequently, cyber laws have evolved to mitigate these risks. However, democratic nations strive to ensure that such laws align with human rights standards and do not shield government from public criticism. Pakistan's efforts to prevent digital crimes culminated in PECA 2016. The Act defines various offences, including unauthorised access to data and information systems, cyber terrorism and online hate speech. Some key definitions include:

Access to data: Gaining control or the ability to use, copy, modify or delete data within a system.

By Talat Masood:

What are and what should be the priorities of Pakistan's leadership that needs to be given greater attention both in the parliament and the media to steer the country towards stability and progress?

The list is long and has been discussed time and again in the parliament, cabinet and media, and policies made and government expressing its intent to faithfully implement them. But as one can see the results are not encouraging. And the country continues to lag behind in all critical indicators that measure progress and stability. More importantly, leadership continues to suffer and there is little sensitivity towards their plight.

The country's major weakness lies in a distorted power structure that has drifted from its constitutional boundaries and well-established democratic norms. This weakness has been pointed out innumerable times in the parliament, the press and seminars but corrective efforts are in the offing.

A broad overview of the present state of the country presents a dismal picture. The politics is highly conflictual and has strayed away from fundamental democratic norms.

The political parties elect their leaders by

merely abiding in form, as the hold of certain families on power is so strong that it is very difficult not impossible to break it. This has largely been the case since the inception of the country and it has stunted its development and the country's ranking in every critical area unsurprisingly remains at the bottom.

These weaknesses, giving rise to serious concerns among the people, have facilitated the current leadership and senior bureaucrats to delve into politics. It has created its own dynamic and strayed democracy further and this is where the country stands.

Pakistan's paradox and foremost challenge is to correct its course, failing which not only its politics but economy and international standing will continue to suffer. It is, however, not clear if the leadership is moving in that direction. The economy is heavily dependent on foreign assistance, loans and grants. Increasingly, World Bank of China and friendly Arab kingdoms. The prospects of Pakistan attaining economic autonomy in the near future also seem remote.

With politics conflictual and the economy in distress, the country's standing among nations has suffered.

It is only by placing the economy front and centre that self-reliance can be achieved freeing from the shackles of foreign dependence. The inadequate tax revenues

compel the government to fill the gap by international economic aid in the form of loans and occasionally on grants. This helps give some respite and temporarily prop the dysfunctional fiscal and economic system. But how long can the government continue pursuing these short-term policies that adversely affect the well-being of its people?

Experts are suggesting that the government needs to focus on exports and give due attention to reforming the fiscal system that is more relevant to modern demands. Increasing exports in turn requires focus on improving the quality of products and services. Competitive pricing. If we look at the country's foreign policy, the pursuit of economic assistance remains central to its foreign relations. Frequent attempts to reduce foreign assistance and focus more clearly on trade as a vehicle of economic stability and counter the balance of payments deficit. An economy that has been adversely affected by low tax revenues and fiscal imbalances cannot be successful.

As our economists are recommending, a more rational approach would be to focus equally on trade as well as improving the collection of taxes. Recent attempts by the government to increase tax collection have been only partially successful. A more radical transformation in the culture of pay-

ing taxes is necessary. It is also linked with the quality of governance, social sense of responsibility of the people and the level of confidence that they repose in the government.

Supporting industry and promoting its expansion to cover those items and products that are exportable will also contribute to breaking this cycle of borrowing money and accumulating debt. But the capacity to increase productivity and maintain quality to remain competitive in a tough global export market demands improvements in several fields. The quality of the product has to meet international specifications. The price has to be competitive and the ability to support the system of the product during its use are areas that need to be given greater attention. All these major and minor requirements demand change in culture, a better work ethics that promote excellence while retaining the competitive pricing. To attain these goals is all about leadership, and the countries that have been blessed with leaders who had the vision and resolve did succeed in their endeavours.

They knew how important it is to conform to these requirements and thus they stepped forward from the status of developed countries. Central to achieving these goals, as other countries have also demonstrated, is to

ensure that the government with the support of the private sector focuses on primary, secondary and college education. The government has to ensure that no segment of society is left behind and girls in particular are given equal opportunities in all fields of human endeavour.

And the leadership should be aware how important it is to be right in this regard. Leaders cannot continue to only respond to the voter's justifiable anger by empty promises. They have to deliver by promoting political stability and economic growth. Improvements in several fields of the economy significantly that has remained on a downward slide for years, services have to be competitive and the ability to support the system of the product during its use are areas that need to be given greater attention. All these major and minor requirements demand change in culture, a better work ethics that promote excellence while retaining the competitive pricing. To attain these goals is all about leadership, and the countries that have been blessed with leaders who had the vision and resolve did succeed in their endeavours.

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PECA: tightening of the noose

By Dr Syed Akhtar Ali Shah:

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liability—including whether platform owners, hosts and intermediaries can be prosecuted for user-generated content.

The 2025 amendments establish the Social Media Protection and Regulatory Authority (SMPRA), which introduces a mandatory content moderation system for social media platforms. The authority is empowered to issue directions to remove or block content related to violence, pornography or other prohibited materials; and enforce a complaint redress mechanism within each platform.

In addition, a five-member Social Media Complaint Council (SMCC), appointed by the federal government, will handle public complaints regarding PECA violations. Furthermore, the amendments propose replacing FIA and police with a new National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA). This move removes police jurisdiction over cybercrimes, potentially weakening law enforcement's ability to combat organised crime and terrorism.

Perhaps the most controversial change is the criminalisation of

false and fake information - without providing a clear legal definition of what constitutes "false information". Critics argue that this provision is vulnerable to misuse, particularly against journalists, activists and individuals with dissenting views on national and international matters. This could result in a significant erosion of fundamental rights, particularly freedom of speech and expression.

PECA amendments mark a significant shift in Pakistan's approach to cyber regulations. While national security and online safety are legitimate concerns, the vague and broadly defined provisions in these amendments pose serious risks to freedom of expression and democratic accountability. Without clear safeguards against misuse, these changes may serve as a tool for suppression rather than protection.

Given the strong backlash from media organisations, digital rights activists and civil society, it remains to be seen whether these amendments will withstand legal and public challenge or they will ultimately tighten the noose around free speech in Pakistan.

Another glaring example of the poor governance is the case with which Arghamhan truckers' bodies were allegedly stuffed in the trunk of a non-custom paid car, from Karachi to Balochistan. Not only did the police fail to stop him, they didn't even notice it - a stark contrast to their usual vigilance when checking poor motorbike riders and small vehicle owners.

This exposes the police's double standards: hyper-alert when dealing with ordinary citizens but indifferent when it comes to elites in flashy, non-custom paid vehicles. This

is a glaring indictment of the broken system.

Years of weak governance has not only stripped the police of its deterrent effect but also its credibility in the public eye. Again and again, the public must be reminded that these headlines, prompt momentary outrage, and then fade away.

This must be different. The cycle of impunity should not be allowed to repeat itself. The public must rally for a decisive crackdown on drug networks across the country, from the grip of addiction and crime.

The curious case of Mustafa murder

By Asghar Soomro:

The narrative surrounding the murder of young boy Mustafa Amir has frequently shifted in media—from abduction to ransom, then to brutal killing, illegal weapons, network of narcotics and now 60 laptops. Regardless of how much truth lies in these details and how much is likely to withstand scrutiny in the court, all these stories are as alarming as they are revealing. For parents, it is a nightmare; for society, a grim reflection of deeper rot.

The exact motive behind Mustafa's murder remains shrouded in mystery. Media speculations range from a business dispute to a personal vendetta, but one thing is clear: the case has not been solved. A high level joint investigation team, also involving FIA and CTD, is investigating every angle. Whether it can untangle the complex web of motives and bring those responsible to the justice remain to be seen.

The brutal murder of Mustafa, first mercilessly beaten and then set ablaze, has not only shocked parents but also deepened their anxiety over whom to trust

as a friend for their children. His case is not an isolated one; last month renowned Sindh poet Dr Akhbar Khan was killed allegedly by his young son in Hyderabad in a similar manner. Unless social scientists examine underlying causes of the rising extremist tendencies among youth, particularly in urban areas, upon us to analyse the role of bad governance, which is steadily unravelling the social fabric.

Law enforcement agencies, especially police, wake up from their usual slumber only when a crime garners media attention. The case of Mustafa

Amir is no exception. The disciplinary action has already been taken against the SHO and his junior police officers who were suspended and demoted for failing to act on the complaint from Mustafa's mother about her son's abduction. Meanwhile, another inquiry is underway to determine whether other police personnel facilitated the alleged murderer, Arman Qureshi, to evade the arrest.

The case became more complex when it emerged that the victim, Mustafa, had been out on the bail after being

arrested by Anti-Narcotics Force a few days earlier. He was under trial at Anti-Narcotics Court in Karachi.

Therefore, initially police assumed that he might have been picked again by the ANF on the same suspect, Arman, who was wanted for murder, illegal possession of weapons and an attack on law enforcement.

Instead, the judge placed him in judicial custody as suspected, the decision was influenced by a bribe, it raises an even more troubling question: how often does such a scenario play out in the judicial favour?

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AT UN, Pakistan welcomes EU's humanitarian aid to Gaza, West Bank

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Pakistan has highlighted European Union's continued support to the United Nations' budget, and its commitment to the UN peacekeeping operations and peace-building activities, saying it carries on even amid shifting geopolitical dynamics.

Speaking in the UN Security Council's annual briefing on EU's partnership with the UN, Ambassador Munir Akram underscored the need for a global order underpinned by the UN Charter to promote durable peace, sustainable development and inclusive growth.

In this regard, the Pakistani envoy called for early peace in Ukraine and welcomed European Union's humanitarian support in Gaza and the West Bank as well as its support to UNRWA, the UN aid agency for Palestinians, saying all conflicts must be resolved in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.

"We also welcome the EU's support to the Arab and now the OIC (organization of Islamic Cooperation) plan for reconstruction of Gaza and peace in Palestine based on the two-state solution," Ambassador Akram said. As a developing

country, he said, Pakistan also appreciates the EU's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the reform of International Financial Architecture, provision of humanitarian assistance for people afflicted by catastrophes.

"At a time when international development cooperation is under immense stress, the EU's sustained support, including to UN agencies, funds and programmes will be critical," Ambassador Akram told the 15-member Council.

"We look forward to collaborating with

the EU to secure a meaningful result at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Spain."

Describing EU-Pakistan partnership robust, comprehensive and wide-ranging, Ambassador Akram said, "The EU, as a unit, is Pakistan's largest trade and investment partner."

The GSP plus (Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus), he said it has played an important role in the growth of trade and has served as a win-win model for economic cooperation, citing various programmes in this regard.



QUETTA: Security personals standing on Quetta Railway Station. Security forces have rescued at least 190 passengers and killed 30 terrorists as a rescue operation continues into its second day after terrorists hijacked the Jaffer Express train near Balochistan Bolan district.

AJK President urges world to help resolve Kashmir dispute

MIRPUR (AJK) (INP): The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, has said that it is high time that the international community should come forward in a big way to help resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute.

Addressing an Iftar dinner hosted in his honor by former governor Saeed Tabarak in the State metropolis, he said that he had also drawn the attention of international Islamic countries towards the dire situation

in occupied Kashmir seeking their respective countries' pivotal role to resolve the longstanding dispute peacefully.

He said that Muslim countries have always supported the Kashmiris' legitimate right for self-determination. He expressed the hope that the Muslim Ummah would continue its role in ensuring the right of self-determination. He further said that it is our collective responsibility to utilize our freedom to amplify the voice of our brothers and sisters in occupied Kashmir whose voice has been suppressed under the draconian laws.

"Azad Kashmir will achieve self-sufficiency in electricity if similar projects are initiated," he remarked. The President also highlighted several significant initiatives, including the provision of Sui gas to Mirpur city, which were initiated under his government.

The president said that he was trying to seek Sui gas supply to Muzaffarabad as well. The president said that construction of Mirpur-Muzaffarabad railway line, establishing CPCE Business Center International Airport at Mirpur and restoration and expansion of airports at Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad were among his top priorities.

On this occasion, Minister of State Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, former advisor to the government and host Saeed Tabarak, former minister of state Chaudhry Maqbool Ahmed, Presidential Advisor Saeed Intiaz Khan, former Chief Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Ibrahim Zia, Raja Madad, Munir Sulchra, Intiaz Abbasi, and others were also present.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan while presiding a meeting on E-Sports.

Ban on AAC, JKIM draws flak from across aisle in IIOJK

SRINAGAR (INP): The ban Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee and Mastoor Abbas-led Ittehadul Muslimeen by Modi-led Indian regime has drawn strong criticism from across the aisle in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, senior APHC leader and AAC Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a statement issued in Srinagar said that the AAC was founded by his father at the peak of the Holy Relic agitation in 1964, and since then, it has firmly stood by the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, advocating their aspirations and rights through democratic means.

The organization, he added, always called for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute through dialogue and deliberation. He maintained that AAC members suffered jails and incarceration and even were martyred for raising the demand.

"This move seems part of the continuation of the policy of intimidation and disempowerment that is being followed via a viz occupied Jammu and Kashmir since August 2019. The voice of truth may be suppressed through force but will not be silenced," he added.

Reacting to the ban, Jammu and Kashmir Ittehadul Muslimeen leader Mastoor Abbas said that "coercion and restrictions do not solve problems but create further complications."

He said JKIM has always been a pioneer in social services and its connection with the people is strong and inalienable, "so this voice cannot be silenced."

Mastoor said banning will neither make any difference nor can it solve the problems and advised the authorities to

"adopt a positive approach" instead of suppressing the people and their demands so that an atmosphere of peace and order can be established in the region."

In a tweet, Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti wrote, "Banning of Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee (AAC) headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Mastoor Abbas-led Ittehadul Muslimeen (JKIM) by Indian Home Ministry is another blow to Kashmir's social and political landscape. Suppressing dissent will only deepen tensions. Democracy is about more than elections—it's about protecting citizens' fundamental rights." She said silencing Kashmir's voices may serve BJP's political agenda, but it undermines the basic fundamental rights. She advised New Delhi to prevent any move away from heavy-handed tactics.

National Conference General Secretary and MLA Ali Muhammad Sagar said he was disappointed to know about the banning of AAC and JKIM.

"The Mirwaiz family has been torch bearers of peace, communal harmony and helped J&K to keep up with its secular credentials. Such measures do not bring any good to the situation in Kashmir," he said in his post on X. Acting Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Mehmooh Ahmed Sagar in a statement in Islamabad condemning the ban said that BJP-led Indian government's continued policy of repression and human rights violation in occupied Kashmir are threatening the fundamental rights to life and liberty.

The ban, he added, implies a concerted effort by a Hinduva government against political organizations in the disputed territory.

PTI, JUI-F engage in discussions to reinforce opposition

ISLAMABAD (INP): The head of the opposition alliance will be decided by all member parties with consensus, sources said while sharing inside story of the meeting between the PTI and JUI-F committees.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) have been engaged in discussions to reinforce the opposi-

tion, despite lingering differences. "The JUI said they will agree over the head of the alliance that will be consented by all parties," sources said.

According to sources, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam has demanded an agreement over seat adjustment in the next elections. "Earlier in the PDM alliance we were subjected to betrayal," JUI said in the meeting. "We

don't want similar treatment with us by the PTI later," sources said. The JUI has also expressed concerns regarding PTT's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, sources said.

The PTI committee said that they will finalize the issue after holding consultations with the party's founder.

The JUI-F leaders,

outlined the reservations of their party, before committing to any alliance.

Talks also centered on collective efforts within the parliament on key national issues and potential legislation.

Although both parties have maintained contact in recent months, a breakthrough for a formal working relationship yet to be materialized.

No power can destabilize country: Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi vehemently denounced the heinous terrorist attack on Jaffer Express in the Bolan Pass area of Balochistan and assured the nation that no external or internal power can succeed in destabilizing Pakistan in an exclusive interview with a Private news channel, minister asserted that it was not merely a security issue, but a blatant attempt by foreign powers to destabilize and undermine the sovereignty of the

country. Railway minister denounced the brazen assault on Jaffer Express in Balochistan, implicating foreign powers and local militant outfits like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) in a nefarious plot to undermine Pakistan's stability.

Abbasi further revealed that the railway scanners were also malfunctioning, compromising the security protocols in place. He emphasized that present government is resolute in its commitment to eradicate terrorism and

bring about a conclusive end to this menace, stressing that national unity is imperative at this critical juncture.

He condemned the attack as a "cowardly and heinous act" that is deeply distressing.

Pakistan denounces Indian authorities for banning two IIOJK organizations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Wednesday denounced the decision by Indian authorities to declare the 'Awami Action Committee' and 'Jammu and Kashmir Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen' as 'Unlawful Association' for five years. The 'Awami Action Committee' is led by a prominent political and religious leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. The 'Jammu and Kashmir Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen' was also founded by another notable political and reli-

gious leader, Maulana Mohammad Abbas Ansari, who headed it till his demise in 2022. The recent decision increases the total number of outlawed Kashmiri political parties and organizations to 16. Foreign Office spokesperson Shaqat Ali Khan said in a statement, "Banning of different political parties and organizations is yet another manifestation of the Indian authorities' iron-fisted approach in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). It reflects a desire to suppress the political activities and stifle dissent."

It also shows their disregard of democratic norms and international human rights law," he remarked. The spokesperson urged the Indian government to remove the curbs on the Kashmiri political parties, release all the political prisoners, and faithfully implement the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Presides Over High-Level Meeting of PM Shehbaz Sharif Committee on Raw Sugar Import.

TENDER NOTICE FOR OUTSOURCING OF GENERAL, NON-CORE SERVICES 'SUPPORT STAFF' IN CHILD PROTECTION INSTITUTE, ISLAMABAD

IFB No: 4-1/2025-CPI

Government of Pakistan Ministry of Human Rights (Child Protection Institute) invites bids through EPADS from reputable Firms, having representative office in Islamabad/Rawalpindi, for Outsourcing of General, Non-Core Services 'Support Staff' duly registered with SECP for a period of one (01) year, further extendable on satisfactory performance. The companies must be on Active Taxpayers List of FBR and fulfill the eligibility criteria/ terms and conditions as per Section II of the bidding document.

- Bidding shall be carried out by Single Stage One Envelope Procedure. Further, any bids not submitted through EPADS shall stand rejected as per S.R.O No. 296(1)/2023. The S.R.O available at PPRA's website (www.ppra.gov.pk/doc/epromotif.pdf).
- Earnest money (Bid Security) equivalent to Rs. 260,000/- (Two Hundred Sixty Thousand Rupees Only) needs to be submitted in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favor of DDO, Child Protection Institute. The Bidder must submit the Earnest Money (Bid Security) sealed in a small envelope or must produce in original at the time of bid opening as per rule 25 of PPRA.
- Bids shall be valid for 120 Days. In case of unsuccessful tenders, Earnest Money (Bid Security) will be released/returned within a fortnight and in case of successful bidder the same shall be released on furnishing of performance security.
- Blacklisted firms and Bidders cannot participate in bidding process. A certificate to the effect that the Bidder has never been Black Listed by any Ministry/Division/Department /Government Organization should accompany the bid.
- Interested firms may apply through EPADS with subject "TENDER FOR OUTSOURCING OF GENERAL, NON-CORE SERVICES IN CPI" within 15-days (28th March 2025 at 11:00 A.M). Tender will be opened on the same day at 11:30 A.M in the presence of the representative/bidders.
- Procuring agency reserves the rights to reject any or all bids in terms of Rule- 33 of PPRA Rules 2004. In case public holiday is announced on bid submission & opening date the same shall be held on the next working day.
- This Tender Notice is also available on EPADS Website (www.ppra.gov.pk) & Ministry of Human Rights Website www.mohr.gov.pk

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PRO No. 358/12-3-2025

HEC, Accreditation Councils meet to address key challenges in quality education

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) convened a high-level meeting with national accreditation councils at the HEC Secretariat, Islamabad, to address key challenges in maintaining and enhancing the quality of higher education across the country.

The meeting brought together chairpersons, presidents, and representatives from leading accreditation councils, including Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC), National Council for Tibb (NCT), National Council for Homeopathy, Pharmacy Council of Pakistan (PCP), Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council (PN&MC), Allied Health Professional Council, Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), Pakistan Coun-

cil for Architects and Town Planners (PCATP), Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (PVMC), National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC), National Accreditation Council for Teachers Education (NACTE), National Business Education Accreditation Council (NBEAC), National Agricultural Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC), and National Technology Council (NTC).

The primary objective of the meeting was to foster collaboration among accreditation bodies, streamline accreditation processes, and implement best practices to enhance academic standards.

The agenda covered critical areas, including programme accreditation, faculty appointment criteria, standardization of accreditation processes, cur-

riculum development, capacity building, international collaboration, and the role of accreditation in ensuring academic excellence.

Chairman of HEC Prof Dr Mukhtar Ahmad emphasized the importance of modernizing accreditation frameworks and aligning them with international best practices.

"To ensure quality education, we must continuously evolve our accreditation processes by adopting global standards, enhancing capacity, and updating outdated regulations," he stated.

He further stressed the need for a more dynamic, transparent, and technology-driven accreditation system that ensures higher education institutions in Pakistan meet both national and international quality benchmarks.



OMAN: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion H.E. Qais Al Youssif Discussing Trade and Investment Cooperation-Muscat, Oman.

KP CM praises cabinet's outstanding performance

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Wednesday praised the outstanding performance of the provincial cabinet over the past year, emphasizing significant progress in economic stability and development initiatives.

Speaking during the 27th meeting of the provincial cabinet, attended by cabinet members, the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, and relevant administrative secretaries, the CM highlighted the financial turnaround achieved under his leadership, said an official release.

"When we assumed office, the treasury had funds sufficient for only 15 days of salaries. Today, we have a surplus of over Rs 150 billion," Gandapur stated.

He credited the government's strategic financial management, noting that no new taxes were imposed, nor were existing rates increased, yet provincial revenue saw an

increase of over 50 percent (pc). Highlighting key achievements, Gandapur mentioned the revival of the Sehat Card scheme, which had been discontinued earlier. Not only was it reinstated, but the rates were also increased by 30pc.

He further noted the clearance of Rs 87 billion in pending dues and the establishment of a Rs 30 billion Debt Management Fund to ensure financial sustainability.

For industrial development, an 18 billion-rupee project to establish a power transmission line for affordable electricity was initiated.

The government also launched a flagship solarization project to convert homes, government buildings, educational institutions, and health centers to solar power.

The CM emphasized that since taking office, there has been no delay in salary or pension payments, and the government has avoided taking new

loans. Additionally, Rs 30 billion in new development funds have been allocated to accelerate progress.

Key decisions made during the cabinet meeting included the approval of funds for the establishment of the KP Judicial Officers Welfare Fund, allocation for the Judicial Academy in Regi Model Town, and the creation of new positions within the Provincial Ombudsman Secretariat. Funds were also sanctioned for the construction of an auditorium at Abbottabad Public School.

Furthermore, financial support was approved for KP athletes participating in the National Games in Karachi, alongside the appointment of a CEO for the Faculty of Paramedics and Allied Health Sciences.

CM Gandapur concluded by asserting that the government's strategic initiatives and fiscal discipline have set new benchmarks for progress in the province.

ANF recovers over 61 kg drugs worth over Rs 4.5m; arrests 10 suspects

RAWALPINDI (INP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 8 operations across the country recovered over 61 kg drugs worth more than Rs 4.5 million and arrested 10 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Wednesday.

He informed that 500 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near the bus stand on GT Road, Rawalpindi.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. In another operation, 2.382

kg ice hidden in the trolley bag of a passenger going to Saudi Arabia was recovered at Islamabad International Airport.

In the third operation, 312 grams hashish was recovered from the shoes of a passenger going to Dubai at Islamabad International Airport. 100 capsules

filled with heroin were recovered from the stomach of a passenger going with a woman to Jeddah at Lahore

Airport. 94 grams heroin was recovered from a parcel sent to the Maldives through a courier office in Karachi.

A total of 36 kg hashish was recovered from a car and a motorcycle checked near the railway gate in Gujrat and 3 accused were arrested.

15.6 kg hashish was recovered from an abandoned motorcycle near the bus stop on GT Road, Peshawar.

In the 8th operation, 6 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of two women netted near Iqbal Shaheed Toll Plaza.

Attock. Cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the Narcotics Control Act and further investigations are underway.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar (Chair), presents a souvenir to the Ambassador of Denmark, Jakob Linulf, during their meeting on bilateral Maritime Cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Presidents of Chambers of Commerce across Pakistan.

Security forces eliminating terrorists with bravery: Prime Minister (PM)

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said that security forces officers and personnel were eliminating terrorists with bravery and professional capabilities during the ongoing

operation. This comes after terrorists attacked the Jaffar Express on Tuesday, taking hundreds of passengers hostage.

The Prime Minister said despite difficult terrain, the morale of the security forces was high and they were pushing back the coward terrorists with their timely action.

The prime minister ex-

pressed the hope that the security operation would soon meet with success and the terrorists would be eliminated, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He said that inhuman terrorists who launched the cowardly assault at Jaffar Express at Dhdhar-Bolan Pass did not deserve any concession. Terrorists were the enemies of progress and development of Balochistan province.

The prime minister said targeting of innocent passengers in the holy and blessed month of Ramadan ul Mubarak proved it clearly that

terrorists had no relation with Islam, Pakistan and Balochistan. He also expressed the resolve of continuation of fight against terrorism till complete eradication of this specter from the country.

Any conspiracy to spread chaos and lawlessness in the country would be foiled, he said, adding that they would never allow enemies of the country to succeed in their nefarious designs.

The prime minister said in this fight against terrorism, the entire nation was standing shoulder to shoulder with their security forces.

'All measures to be taken to enforce complete ban on plastic bags'

QUETTA (INP): Advisor to Chief Minister for Environment, Naseem-ur-Rehman Mullahkhalil said that all possible measures would be taken to enforce complete ban on the use and sale of plastic bags and geared up the ongoing campaign to clean Quetta city of plastic waste.

Provincial Advisor for Environment Naseem-ur-Rehman Mullahkhalil while addressing the meeting of the Advisory Committee said that the environmental protection is not the responsibility of any single institution but of every citizen could play their role to curb the use of plastics bags.

He said that the department is determined to make the Quetta city a plastic bags free city and has allowed plastic bags manufacturing to reduce plastic pollution through, limited use, recycling and safe disposal.

He said that in view of the protection of human health and environment, the use of polythene bags has been banned under the Government of Balochistan Act 2023 and negligence in this regard will not be tolerated.

Mullahkhalil emphasized the collective responsibility of all citizens to help eliminate polythene bags. He stated that the widespread use of plastic bags contributes significantly to environmental pollution.

The meeting also made recommendations regarding alternatives to polythene bags. On this occasion, Director General of the Balochistan Environmental Protection Agency Muhammad Ibrahim Baloch provided a detailed briefing regarding the ban on polythene bags.

The meeting was attended by VC Balochistan University Zahoor Bazzi, Deputy Secretary Local Government Khurram Khalid, SP City Quetta Akhtar Nawaz, Additional Secretary Industries Dr Saqib Zeb Kanis, President Markaz Anjuman Tajran Rahim Kakar, Environmentalist Kaleemullah Khilji, Mumtaz Ahmed Lango, Chief of Section P&D and other relevant important personalities and officials.

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Police claim to have arrested blind mur-der accused

DI KHAN (INP): The district police on Wednesday claimed to have solved a blind murder case, arresting its accused.

According to police spokesman, the Bandokrai Police received a report from Inayat Ullah son of Habibullah, a resident of Shorkot area a few days ago, stating that his brother, Saeedullah, had been missing since February 28, 2025.

He suspected that Saeedullah had been murdered by his own son Najibullah and wife Fatima.

In response, a team of Bandokrai police station led by SHO Amanullah Kundli initiated an inquiry and included Najibullah in the investigation.

During a preliminary interrogation, Najibullah confessed that due to some domestic disputes, he along with his mother

had killed Saeedullah by an axe and buried his body in the courtyard of their house.

Following this revelation, the police team conducted a search, dragging up the courtyard, and recovered the body of Saeedullah, son of Habibullah.

The accused, Najibullah and Fatima, were arrested, and the weapon used in the crime was also recovered.



PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Planning & Development, Absan Iqbal addressing the Provincial Consultative Workshop on URAAN Pakistan at the Chief Minister's House, emphasizing collaborative efforts for sustainable development on March 12, 2025.

Minister chair reviews progress on development projects

LAHORE, March 12 (INP): A meeting held at the Civil Secretariat, Minister for Local Government Zeshan Rafiq in chair reviewed progress on the Chief Minister Cities Development Programme here on Wednesday.

Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmed and Special Secretary Development Asia Gul also attended the meeting.

Syed Zahid Aziz, Managing Director of Punjab Municipal Development Fund Company (PMDFC) gave a brief-

ing on the programme. Addressing the meeting, the minister said that in the first phase, water supply and sanitation facilities would be provided in 20 cities. "Data collection work has been completed in 59 more cities."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had approved a mega programme of worth Rs 150 billion for the provision of municipal services in 110 cities," he noted.

He said that no sewerage pipeline will be laid inside the towns, instead a bypass model

of drainage system will be implemented around small cities to avoid harmful effects of wastewater.

"Future new settlements will be connected to this bypass drainage system", he added.

Zeshan Rafiq said that at least one water storage tank will be built for a population of up to one lac, while more water storage tanks will be built in the same proportion for a population exceeding this.

The minister said an integrated system would be introduced for rainwater drainage.