

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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Quetta-Karachi Highway to Be Upgraded as Govt Redirects Oil Savings to Balochistan

Dawood Ahmed: ISLAMABAD: The federal government has announced a major infrastructure initiative to upgrade the Quetta-Karachi (N-25) Highway to full motorway standards, using funds saved from the recent drop in global oil prices.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made the announcement during a federal cabinet meeting, emphasizing that the move aims to provide safer and more efficient travel for the people of Balochistan.

The strategic N-25 Highway connects Chaman, Quetta, Kalat, Khuzdar, and Karachi — a critical route often referred to as a 'death road' due to its poor condition and high accident rate.

The PM also directed that the saved funds be used to complete Phase 2 of the Kachhi Canal project, which will help irrigate vast stretches of farmland in Balochistan.

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, who attended the meeting, expressed his appreciation for the federal government's decision, calling it a significant step toward



addressing Balochistan's longstanding development challenges.

In a related move, the cabinet approved amendments to the

Petroleum Products (Petroleum Levy) Ordinance, 1961, expected to boost federal revenue.

The decision comes amid global oil market instability, with

Brent crude falling to \$64.34 per barrel and US West Texas Intermediate to \$60.96 due to declining demand forecasts and trade uncertainties.

Pakistan reaffirms call for ensuring equitable representation by adding more non-permanent

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Pakistan, which firmly opposes more permanent members in the UN Security Council, has reaffirmed its call for ensuring equitable representation on the 15-member body by adding more non-permanent members to make it more democratic, representative, accountable and effective.

"We want to accommodate the interests of all states and regional groupings — this can be best achieved through addition of regular non-permanent seats, which in our view, is the most equitable and fair option by any comparison,"

Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan, told delegates when the long-running Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) aimed at reforming the Council resumed on Tuesday.

"We remain staunchly opposed to proposals for permanent seats, as there is no justification for creating new centres of privilege within the UN," he said.

"Our goal is to democratize the Council and support a reform that corresponds to the interests of the large majority of member states and regional and cross-regional groups, not just a few self-

appointed states."

Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five key areas — the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly.

Progress towards restructuring the Security Council remains blocked as G-4 countries — India, Brazil, Germany and Japan — continue to push for permanent seats in the Council, while the Italy/Pakistan-led Uniting for Consensus (UIC) group opposes any additional permanent members.

As a compromise, UIC has proposed a new category of members — not permanent members — with longer duration in terms and a possibility to get re-elected.

The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and 10 non-permanent members elected to two-year terms. In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy said, "As the UIC has proposed additional elected members will enhance regional representation and ownership."

Chagai District Council Approves Rs. 80 Million Budget for 2024-25

Riaz Baloch: CHAGAI: The District Council of Chagai has unanimously approved an Rs. 80 million development budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.

The budget session, presided over by District Chairman Khan Abdul Wadood Khan Sanjrani and Speaker Mir Asfandiyar Khan Yarmohammadzai, emphasized inclusive planning and transparent execution. The session commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by discussions where Union Council chairmen presented proposals addressing local needs. These proposals were collectively endorsed by the council.

Chairman Sanjrani highlighted that the budget prioritizes essential sectors such as educa-

tion, healthcare, infrastructure, clean drinking water, sanitation, road construction, youth employment, and women's empowerment.

He reaffirmed the council's commitment to transparency and accountability in implementing development projects.

Speaker Yarmohammadzai noted the inclusive nature of the budget preparation process, ensuring that the needs of all regions within the district were considered. He urged officials to ensure the transparent and timely utilization of funds and to complete all development projects with quality and efficiency.

The council's approval of the budget marks a significant step towards addressing the district's developmental needs and enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

Pakistan Deports Over 1,500 Undocumented Afghans from Qila Abdullah

Sardar Muhammad Khondai: QILAABDULLAH: Local authorities in Qila Abdullah district have deported over 1,500 undocumented Afghan nationals as part of Pakistan's ongoing initiative to repatriate illegal foreign residents. The operation commenced following the expiration of the government's deadline for undocumented migrants to voluntarily leave the country.

Deputy Commissioner Riaz Khan Dawar stated that the repatriation process is being carried out without discrimination and will continue until all undocumented migrants are repatriated.

Afghan nationals are returned to their home country. Checkpoints have been established on national highways and various other locations to identify and apprehend individuals lacking proper documentation.

In line with court directives, Afghan nationals holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards have been granted an extension until June 30, 2025, to regularize their stay.

The operation involves co-ordinated efforts by the Levies Force, police, and Frontier Corps personnel.

Federal govt asks SC to dismiss pleas of IHC judges in transfer case

NEWS DESK: The federal government on Wednesday urged the Supreme Court to dismiss the pleas against the transfer of judges to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and the subsequent changes in the seniority list.

In February, Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar from the Lahore High Court (LHC), Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro from the Sindh High Court (SHC) and Justice Muhammad Asif from the Balochistan High Court (BHC) were transferred to the IHC.

The controversy centres around the alteration of the judges' seniority list after these transfers as Justice Dogar was made the senior puisne judge, which paved the way for his appointment as the acting IHC CJ after Justice Aamer Farooq's elevation to the SC.

According to the petitions filed by five IHC judges among others, these three cannot be considered judges of the IHC until they have taken a fresh oath in accordance with Article 194 of the Constitution.

In its response, the federal government sought the dismissal of the pleas as the three judges have been "transferred as per the constitution... [and they] are not required to take new oath after transfer" as under Article 200, it did not mean a new appointment.



Pakistan's broader repatriation initiative, known as the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Program (IFRP), was launched in November 2023 to address the presence of undocumented foreign

nationals in the country. The program has faced criticism from international human rights organizations concerned about the potential risks faced by returnees in Afghanistan.

As the operation continues, authorities emphasize their commitment to upholding the law while ensuring that the repatriation process is conducted in a humane and orderly manner.

China's support was crucial in securing IMF deal, says PM Shehbaz

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that Pakistan's recent agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would not have been possible without financial and diplomatic support extended by China.

Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad for agriculture graduates selected for training in China, PM Shehbaz Sharif described Beijing as Pakistan's "most sincere friend" and credited the country with playing a decisive role in stabilising Pakistan's struggling economy.

The prime minister acknowledged China's continued economic partnership, particularly noting the one-year extension of a \$2 billion loan repayment last month, which provided much-needed relief for Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves.

Pakistan secured a \$7 billion bailout package from the IMF in September 2024 to avert a balance of payments crisis.

A staff-level agreement was reached in March 2025 after a successful review of the programme's first tranche, with China's backing seen as critical to the deal's completion.

PM Shehbaz said China had consistently supported Pakistan's economy through investments in infrastructure, energy and industrial projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



which he once again described as a "lifeline" for the country. The prime minister reaffirmed his government's commitment to overhauling the agriculture sector, calling it essential for ensuring national food security, boosting export potential, and improving livelihoods in rural areas.

As part of a government initiative to strengthen the sector, 1,000 Pakistani agriculture graduates will receive training in China in modern farming techniques, digital crop management and climate-resilient practices. The first group of 300 graduates is set to depart soon for a three-month programme, followed by two additional batches in phased training over the next year.

During the event, Sharif congratulated the outgoing students and expressed hope that their training would directly contribute to agricultural innovation and productivity once they return.

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, who also attended the ceremony, praised Pakistan's economic progress over the past year and reaffirmed Beijing's commitment to bilateral cooperation. He said China would continue to work closely with Pakistan, particularly in modernising its agricultural sector.

Jiang said Chinese President Xi Jinping attached great importance to Pakistan's development and the long-standing partnership between the two nations.

Pakistan and Afghanistan set to hold talks amidst growing tensions

NEWS DESK: Pakistan and Afghanistan are holding key talks on security and border issues in the 7th session of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), set to take place in Kabul, officials said on Wednesday.

The meeting comes in the light of rising tensions between the two countries, with Afghan refugee deportations, skirmishes along the border, and the increased activity of armed groups within Pakistan since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. Pakistan maintains that these armed groups operate from within Afghan soil, a claim that Afghan officials have denied, maintaining that no one can use Afghan soil against any country.

Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Mohammad Sadiq, is leading the Pakistani delegation, which includes both military and intelligence officials. Ambassador Sadiq's office in Islamabad said that he had reached Kabul this morning. While on the other side, Afghan Deputy Defence Minister Mullah Abdul Qayyum Zakir is set to lead the meeting, according to Afghan government spokesperson, Zabiullah

Mujahid. Mullah Abdul Qayyum Zakir is a senior Taliban leader, who once led the Taliban military commission during the 20-year war against the US-Nato forces.

"SAPM/Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan arrived at Kabul at the head of a delegation to attend the JCC meeting. JCC meeting is being held after a long gap," according to Sadiq's X. The last JCC meeting was held in Islamabad in early January 2024.

Afghan spokesperson Mujahid said both sides will "discuss resolving potential disputes along the Durand Line and creating facilities for the people of both sides." Last month, Pakistan and Afghan Taliban forces exchanged fire following the closure of Torkham border crossing over construction of posts.

Following this development, a Pakistan and Afghan Jirga brokered a deal that led to the reopening of Torkham on March 19 after 27 days. Head of the Pakistani Jirga, Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi told Dawn.com last month that the JCC would discuss whatever the Jirga had decided including a ceasefire till April 15.

Addressing Poverty and Inequality: A Call for Sincere Leadership and Perpetual Reforms

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Senate Deputy Chairman reaffirms commitment to strengthening Pakistan-EU ties

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BETA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

A Century of Neglect: The Grim Reality of Coal Mining in Balochistan

Editorial:

The collapse of the coal mine in Sandi, near Quetta, once again exposes the glaring lack of safety measures in Balochistan's mining sector. Despite the tragic loss of four miners and the ongoing desperate rescue operation for eight others trapped underground, this incident is not an isolated event. It reflects the systematic failure to enforce basic safety standards and the callous disregard for the lives of the workers.

Accountability Must Extend Beyond Mine Owners

While the coal mine owner must be held accountable for failing to provide safe working conditions, the responsibility does not end there.

Officials in the Mines and Minerals Department, tasked with ensuring miners' safety, must also face scrutiny. If found negligent, they too should be punished. Accountability should be broad and systemic, targeting all those complicit in ignoring safety protocols and risking human lives for profit.

The Mines Act of 1923: A Century of Neglect

The Mines Act of 1923 was enacted during British rule to safeguard miners' lives. A century later, its provisions remain largely ignored. The Act mandates strict safety standards, periodic inspections, and the establishment of safeguards against hazards like gas buildup. Yet, successive governments have failed to implement it in letter and spirit, leaving miners vulnerable to deadly accidents.

A Call for Immediate Reforms

The Sandi tragedy must serve as a wake-up call for comprehensive reforms in Balochistan's mining sector. Authorities should:

• Enforce the Mines Act of 1923: Conduct regular inspections and impose strict penalties for non-compliance.

• Hold Officials Accountable: Investigate Mines Department officials for negligence and prosecute if found guilty.

• Introduce Modern Safety Standards: Equip mines with advanced safety systems, including gas detectors and reinforced structures.

• Empower Workers: Establish grievance mechanisms for miners to report unsafe conditions without fear of retaliation.

Lip Service Must End

The repeated assurances from provincial ministers and officials mean little when no tangible action follows. The fact that no senior official visited the Sandi mine even 48 hours after the collapse underscores the ruling class's indifference toward the working class. Coal miners, driven by poverty and unemployment, risk their lives daily in unsafe conditions, only to be forgotten in times of tragedy.

A Moral and Legal Imperative

Protecting coal miners is not just a legal obligation but a moral imperative. The government must prioritize the safety and dignity of those who fuel the economy at the cost of their own lives. The Sandi disaster should not become just another statistic but a turning point in ensuring justice and reform.

The time for action is now. Anything less than full accountability and the strict implementation of safety laws would be a betrayal of the miners and their families who continue to suffer in silence.

US-Europe standoff: new geopolitical order challenging BRI

By Dr Shazia Anwer Cheema:

The

world is not only

witnessing rapid geo-

political developments but

also surprising ones,

leading to varied inter-

pretations. This uncer-

tainty makes it essential

to parse public narra-

tives before deciphering

the hidden catalysts

driving these shifts.

An EU-US rift re-

garding "global set-

tings" has re-emerged.

The last notable phase

of this divide was when

former German Chancel-

lor Angela Merkel at-

tempted to persuade

Trump 1.0 over the

Ukraine war.

While the EU cur-

rently pushes for contin-

ued war, the US advo-

cates for a negotiated

settlement centring a

rare-earth minerals deal.

Beneath the surface lies

burden sharing.

The transatlantic al-

liance seeks to divide

global responsibilities

with the EU managing

previous ventures and

the US marching to-

wards the Asia-Pacific

arena.

However, age disagree-

ments persist.

Some European

leaders, such as

Estonia's Kaja Kallas,

support neutralising

Russia first and believe

that handling Moscow

effectively will help

counter China.

"If we will do Rus-

sia right, we will do

China right," insists Kallas.

However, the US wants

to shift its posture to-

wards China immedi-

ately, viewing its global

risks as an imminent threat

while offloading the

Ukraine conflict in Brus-

sels.

The US is seem-

ingly exploring ways to

weaken Russia's align-

ment with China by re-

inforcing its depen-

dency on Western sys-

tems like SWIFT, rein-

stating business ties

and defrosting assets.

Donald Trump has him-

self admitted, "The stu-

pidity of what they've

done. In going to have

to un-umite them, I

think I can do that too. I

have to unite them."

This approach has

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When US Secretary of

State Marco Rubio was

a senator, he suggested

a potential Russia part-

nership to isolate China

geopolitically and eco-

nomically. Both Biden

and Trump administra-

tions followed suit.

Trump has explicitly

linked this strategy to

preserving the dollar's

supremacy status. "If

we lose the dollar as the

standard, that's like los-

ing a war." Conse-

quently, he has threat-

ened 100% tariffs on

BRICS nations and oth-

ers pursuing de-

dollarisation in Asia.

This reveals that

Trump's strategy is not

about peace. His admin-

istration appears to be

replicating Nixon's 1972

playbook which ex-

ploited the Sino-Soviet

split to weaken the

der remains shrouded in

mystery. Media specula-

tions range from a busi-

ness dispute to a per-

sonal vendetta. With

other possibilities

still at play, a high level

joint investigation team,

including FIA and

CTD, is investigating

every angle. Whether it

can untangle the con-

flicting narratives or not,

bringing those responsible

to the justice remain to be

seen.

The brutal murder

of Mustafa, first mer-

cilessly beaten and then

set ablaze, has not only

shocked parents but

also deepened their an-

xiety over whom to trust

as a friend for their chil-

dren. His case is not an

isolated one; last month

Amir is no exception. The

disciplinary action has

already been taken

against the SHO and his

junior police officers.

Therefore, initially police

assumed that he might

have been picked again

by the ANF.

Whether Mustafa

was genuinely drug ped-

dler or falsely implicat-

ed in the case remains

unclear. However, more

a pressing question is —

how are young boys of

the affluent suburb area

of Karachi being drawn

into the world of drugs

and how as consumers

and sellers?

Beyond police, the

judiciary has also moved

to address misconduct.

The administrative pow-

ers of an Anti-Terrorism

Court judge have been

revoked after he alleg-

edly went beyond his

mandate and acted in bad

faith by denying police

remand of the prime sus-

pect, Armaghan, who

was wanted for murder,

illegal possession of

weapons and an attack

on law enforcement.

Instead, the judge

placed him in judicial

custody. If, as sus-

pected, the decision was

influenced by a bribe, it

raises an even more trou-

bling question: In such

cases, but indifference to

the influential se-

cular judicial favour?

Another glaring ex-

ample of the poor gov-

ernance is the ease with

which Armaghan trans-

ported the victim's body

— 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 no-

tice it — a stark contrast

to their usual vigilance

when checking poor

motorbike riders and small

vehicle owners.

This case, where the

police's double stan-

dards: hyper-alert when

dealing with ordinary

citizens but indifference to

the influential se-

cular judicial favour?

Another glaring ex-

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— stuffed in the trunk of a

non-custom paid car.

From Karachi to

Addressing Poverty and Inequality: A Call for Sincere Leadership and Perpetual Reforms

By Amjad Rashid:

Poverty and inequality,

much like man-made

disasters, afflict societ-

ies worldwide, including

Pakistan.

These are not natural

phenomena but rather

systemic issues rooted

in human actions and

policies.

To eradicate this disease,

national governments

must craft comprehen-

sive strategies aimed at

safeguarding future gen-

erations from its scourge.

In Pakistan, the onus

lies heavily on our polit-

ical elites, spanning all

parties, to recognize

the gravity of the situ-

ation and redirect their

efforts towards combat-

ing man-made affliction.

B & R Trade Center inaugurated to boost Pak, China multilateral cooperation

BEIJING (INP) The Belt and Road Economic and Trade Center (BRETIC), a strategic initiative by IBI International Group, was inaugurated in Changshu city, Suzhou, marking a milestone in enhancing economic and trade collaboration among Belt and Road countries.

The center aims to serve as a one-stop platform for trade, investment and cultural exchanges, facilitating deeper integration between China and partner countries, China Economic Net reported. Once put into

operation, BRETIC will offer comprehensive solutions spanning bilateral bulk trade, supply chain management, engineering procurement and construction (EPC), transfer-operate-transfer (TOT) projects, production line setup and financing services for both business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) engagements.

Among its core objectives are facilitating joint ventures, providing project and trade financing, and helping partner countries access China's market. The center fea-

tures dedicated country display zones and liaison offices for key partners, including Pakistan, Jordan, Nigeria and others.

Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, described BRETIC as an initiative that embodies connectivity, collaboration and practical opportunities.

"The center's integrated services - from procurement facilitation to legal support and business matchmaking - are precisely what our private sector requires to compete successfully in international mar-

kets," he emphasized. IBI Group Chairman Ibrahim Munir highlighted that BRETIC goes beyond traditional trade facilitation by providing a one-stop solution for cross-border collaboration.

"This platform will accelerate partnerships not only in textiles but also in IT, mining, agribusiness, and clean energy," he said.

The center's launch aligns with China's continued commitment to Belt and Road cooperation, which saw trade with partner countries reach RMB 22.1 trillion in 2024.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environment, Senator Dr. Musaddik Malik, Addressing the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit.

US Muslim body raises concern over rights crisis facing Muslims in Assam

WASHINGTON (INP) The Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) has expressed grave concern over the dire conditions facing more than 10 million Muslims in the northeastern Indian state of Assam.

The plight of these Muslims has been detailed in a recent investigative documentary by Middle East Monitor. The revelations point to an unfolding humanitarian crisis fuelled by discriminatory state policies, systemic persecution, and unchecked hate speech.

According to the findings presented, Muslims in Assam are being systematically targeted through ille-

gal mass arrests, arbitrary demolitions of homes, mosques, and madrasas, and detention in facilities where reports of abuse and mistreatment are widespread. These actions reflect a broader pattern of religious persecution, enabled by the weaponisation of laws to criminalise and marginalise an entire community, an IAMC statement said.

The crisis has been further exacerbated by inflammatory and dehumanising rhetoric from ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who has repeatedly referred to Muslims as "infiltrators" from Bangladesh

and warned of a demographic threat. "Such statements not only fuel Islamophobic sentiment but also legitimize violence and state-led repression," it said. The documentary also highlights the impact of policies such as the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which have rendered countless Muslims stateless and vulnerable to indefinite detention.

Last month, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recommended that India be designated as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) for its

severe violations of human rights and religious freedoms for the sixth consecutive year. USCIRF noted that religious freedom in India continued to deteriorate, highlighting the illegal and dangerous proliferation of anti-minority hate speech by BJP leaders during India's 2024 general elections.

"As Islamophobic attacks continue to rise across India, the plight of Assam's Muslims is a stark reminder of how dangerous state-sponsored bigotry can become," said Rasheed Ahmed, Executive Director of IAMC. "The international community must pay urgent attention to the systemic erosion of human rights in Assam."

Pakistan, UAE sign MoU for Second Pakistan International Date Palm Festival

ABU DHABI, April 16 (INP) Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Second Pakistan International Date Palm Festival 2025, set to be held later this year in Pakistan.

The agreement was signed by Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, and Professor and General Secretary of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation Dr. Abdelouhab Zaid here on the sidelines of the grand ceremony of the 17th Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation at the Emirates Palace on Wednesday.

The event, held under the patronage of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice President and

Deputy Prime Minister, honored global leaders in agricultural innovation, including Pakistani scientist Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Markhand who received the prestigious award in the "Influential Figure" category.

Rana Tanveer Hussain appreciated the UAE's visionary leadership in promoting sustainable agriculture and fostering international partnerships.

He emphasised the strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and the UAE, particularly in agricultural research and innovation.

"The Khalifa International Award is a beacon of excellence in agricultural advancement, and Pakistan takes great pride in Dr. Markhand's recognition," said Minister Hussain.

"This achievement reflects Pakistan's commitment to scientific research and sustainable

farming, aligning with global efforts to combat food security challenges and climate change." Sheikh Nahayan Markhand, Al Nahyan recognized several national and international figures for their outstanding contributions to the growth and progress of the date palm cultivation and production sector. Among the honorees were Ambassador Faiz Niaz Timizi,

Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, and Hamad Abdul Ibrahim Saleem Alzaabi, the UAE's Ambassador to Pakistan.

Minister Hussain's participation reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to agricultural innovation and its strong partnership with the UAE in addressing key challenges such as food security, climate resilience, and sustainable farming practices.

Pakistan to send female nurses staff to Malaysia

ISLAMABAD (INP) Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), an attached department of Ministry of Overseas Pakistan and Human Resources, will send female nurses staff to Malaysia who meet the prescribed qualifications and experience. Pakistani travel guides.

An official source told APP, that the selection of nursing staff would be finalized as per job requirements including coronary care, medical/surgical, ICU, Pediatric ICU, Neonatal ICU and Cardiac Units.

He said that the required qualification was diploma in General Nursing & must have specialized Post-Basic, with minimum 5 years of ICU (Cardiac) experience and age not more than 45 for females.

All candidates are required to bring the required documents on the interview day including updated resume.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Maulana Hidayat Rahman Secretary Information Intran Khan, Director General Public Relations Balochistan Noor Khattar, Newly elected President Quetta Press Club Irfan Saeed, BUJ President Khalil Ahmed and other press club and BUJ Newly elected officials are addressing the participants of the event.



ISLAMABAD: Acting governor Balochistan captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai meeting Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani.

Pakistan charts a sustainable future at Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit

ISLAMABAD (INP) The 8th Edition of Pakistan's biggest corporate event, Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit (LIBS), commenced at a local hotel.

Under the theme "Navigating the Unknown, the Summit convened a bespoke gathering of leaders from both the public and the private sector, who confronted the critical challenges of rapidly evolving ecosystems and forged pathways toward powerful solutions. Muhammad Arif Ahsan, Founder & Chairman, Nutshell Group & Pakistan's former Minister for Investment, opened the day with a compelling welcome address highlighting the dual challenge of unprecedented economic and environmental uncertainty and forward for the desired transformation.

He stated, "National prosperity hinges on pioneering sustainable solutions. All ecosystems, whether natural or that of workplaces, need reframing of ecological and financial understanding of indigenous resourcing including that oversees Pakistan's as cornerstones of Pakistan's future economic competitiveness."

Amir Shehzad, Chairman Unity Foods Limited, and co-host of the Summit opened his welcoming keynote with a spotlight on evolving trade routes and ticking climate clock for Pakistan to revolutionize its approach.

"At today's global crossroads, Pakistan's defining journey requires political stability with clear, consistent policies for investors, to chart the course forward. Climate change remains the greatest challenge, demanding unified public-private action rather than mere reaction. Our future depends on transforming vulnerability into opportunity through deliberate, panoramic thinking."

Advocates to take notice of the grave human rights violations being committed in Gaza and Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He also highlighted the critical role of parliamentary diplomacy in shaping foreign relations, noting that as Speaker, he has consistently worked to portray Pakistan's positive and pragmatic image on international platforms.

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S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	Establishment of primary school for girls (separate room) near Muzaffargarh railway station. Sindh Government PS/PS/2021/2203/4696	9,924,965
2	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL FOR DAAM WORKSHOP (PS/NO.2267/2203/1701) TSE-2425446393	4,928,144
3	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL FOR GADDAAN WORKSHOP (PS/NO.2267/2203/1701) TSE-2425446393	5,576,584
4	CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS GRADES-5, 10AT DAM. (PS/NO.2267/2203/1701) TSE-2425446393	9,253,930
5	CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS GRADES-5, 10AT DAM. (PS/NO.2267/2203/1701) TSE-2425446393	9,253,930
6	BOAT BUILDING WORKSHOP (PS/NO.2267/2203/1701) TSE-2425446393	48,545,189
7	BOAT BUILDING WORKSHOP (PS/NO.2267/2203/1701) TSE-2425446393	48,545,189

S.No	Name of Scheme	E/Cost
1	Provision of Home Solar System (Wind) Hub TSE-2425446393	14,887,831
2	Provision of Home Solar system at District. Avenue TSE-2425446393	19,797,706

Procurement shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tender List. The bidder must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 assignments of similar nature of work within 11,000,000 PKR amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-8 and above (up to 25 million) in relevant category and associated code is (E/1) (Solar Energy), (E/1) (Solar Energy System). Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee. Deposit at 2% of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from the office of the undersigned 100% PKR. Issuance of Tender Documents: The date of publication of NIT to 27 May 2025, during office hours on working days. Last date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 27 May 2025 10:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 10:30AM. Address: C-30 Railway Housing Society, Jinnah Road, Quetta.

Phone no: 981-247246 Email: hassanqazi@gmail.com

Executive Engineer Building C/P PPAH Engineering Building

Phone no: 0853-921166 Email: ocepahub@gmail.com

Muhammad Ishaq Appointed Chairman BBISE Quetta for Three Years

Education Desk: QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has appointed Mr. Muhammad Ishaq (AE/BS-19) as the new Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Quetta for a period of three years. Balochistan tourism

The decision was taken with the approval of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Balochistan and announced through a notification issued by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) on Tuesday.

According to the official notification (No. 3-2(7)/2025/SO-I(S&GAD)), Mr. Ishaq, who was previously awaiting posting, has now been transferred and posted with immediate effect and until further orders.



His appointment is expected to strengthen the administrative leadership of the BBISE, commonly known as the Balochistan Board, which oversees matric and intermediate examinations across the province.

BBISE Quetta is a key educational institution responsible for conducting fair and transparent examinations in Balochistan. With

Mr. Ishaq's appointment, stakeholders are hopeful for improved academic standards and examination reforms. The notification has been forwarded to all relevant departments, including the Chief Minister's Office.

Higher Education Department, Accountant General, and others for compliance and record-keeping.



ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan administering the oath of office to Mr. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi, Judge, Lahore High Court and Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

CDA urged to make electric bus route from PIMS to Golra fully operational

ISLAMABAD (INP): Residents of Islamabad have urged the Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to make the electric bus route from Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) to Golra fully operational, citing severe inconvenience due to the incomplete implementation of the service.

According to locals from Golra and surrounding areas, this is one of the city's most crucial transport routes. However, the electric bus service remains only partially active, leading to daily commuting challenges.

Speaking to INP residents shared their frustration, stating that although the service was launched with difficulty, it has yet

to be fully functional. Citizens expressed concern that the first bus on the route departs at 9:00 AM—too late for most commuters.

They demanded that, like other routes, service should begin at 6:00 AM and operate at 10-minute intervals to meet public demand. In a related issue, commuters criticized the decision to increase the interval of the electric metro bus service running from Bahara Kahu Jailani to Mandi Mor from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.

They appealed to the CDA Chairman to revoke the change, stating it has caused increased crowding and significant delays. Furthermore, the shuttle service from Jailani to Sarrah Meel

now also runs every 30 minutes instead of 15, with fares increased from Rs. 20 to Rs. 50.

Passengers reported long waits in the sun at Jailani terminal and said many are forced to walk due to the poor frequency.

Locals protested against these changes and demanded that direct buses be operated from Jailani to Sarrah Meel or Intiaz Store near Mandi Mor at 10- to 15-minute intervals. This, they said, would help regular commuters avoid paying double fares and reduce unnecessary travel delays. There was also a growing call for the extension of the Green Line bus service to Sarrah Meel or Intiaz Store to improve connectivity in the area.

Govt's policies aimed at bringing direct foreign investment to country: Amir Muqam

MALAKAND (INP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Wednesday said that Government's policies was aimed to bring direct foreign investment to the country imperative for creation of jobs opportunities, foster industrial & agriculture development and prosperity of people.

Addressing a public gathering at Palai Dargah here after inauguration of the NAIRA Office, Engr Amir Muqam said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has announced a historic relief package for overseas Pakistanis that would greatly help bringing direct foreign investment in Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan espe-

cially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was blessed with abundance of mines, gemstones, marble, granite and mineral resources and its exploration on scientific line would be used on the country's fast track development.

Engr Amir Muqam who is also the provincial President of PML-N KP said that mines and mineral besides gemstones reservoirs have made Pakistan an ideal investment destination and urged the investors to take advantage of the Govt pro-mineral policies.

Through investment, he said that mines and mineral rich areas would be largely benefited besides ensuring employment opportunities for the area's people.

He said that the Prime Minister has provided a significant re-

lief to domestic and industrial consumers after reducing the per unit electricity price, benefiting millions.

Engr Amir Muqam said that Pakistan's exports achieved significant growth and foreign remittances by overseas Pakistanis increased manifold.

Amir Muqam said that price hike and policy rate have been significantly reduced and top monetary institutions are praising Shehbaz Sharif Govt's economic and fiscal policies.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Govt has saved the country from an imminent economic default and bankruptcy and put the country's economy back on track after his tireless efforts.

Pakistan to become regional hub for trade of used textiles: Musaddiq

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Climate Change, and Environmental Coordination Musaddiq Malik highlighted Pakistan's potential to become a regional hub for the trade of used textiles during a panel discussion on circularity and sustainable textile practices held here on Wednesday.

The Minister emphasized that Pakistan has a long-standing tradition of utilizing used textiles, which have proven to be naturally beneficial. "Other countries are also adopting similar approaches and learning from Pakistan's ex-

periences," he added.

Addressing the importance of sustainability, the Minister stressed the need for green textiles made from 100% renewable materials. He warned that improper reuse of textiles harms the environment and disrupts the food chain, calling such practices "unsustainable and unacceptable."

Acknowledging existing challenges, the Minister pointed out the lack of public awareness and technological gaps as major hurdles.

He called for a clear definition of recycling and circularity

to streamline efforts in the sector.

In his concluding remarks, the Minister underscored the economic benefits of focusing on textile exports and trade, stating that it would significantly boost Pakistan's economy.

Asserting Pakistan's commitment to environmental sustainability, the Minister declared, "We are green not because of external conditions, but for the future of our generations. Whether we receive support or not, we will make it happen and improve the environment."



ISLAMABAD: Bilal Azhar Kayani, Minister of State for Railways, chairs the meeting of Pak-UK Parliamentary Friendship Group.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications.

All-out efforts to make Capital one of most beautiful cities in world: Randhawa

ISLAMABAD (INP): An important meeting of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) was held on Tuesday in Islamabad under the chairmanship of its Chairman and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa.

The meeting was attended by CDA members for Environment, Planning, and Engineering along with other senior officers.

Detailed discussions were held on making Islamabad more beautiful, planting eco-friendly trees and plants, in line with the tree plantation campaign which will be helpful in promote tourism and environment friendly atmosphere.

During the briefing, the meeting was informed that five major highways of the city have been initially selected for beautification, including the Expressway, Margalla Road, Club Road, Park Road, and Faisal Avenue and the others roads will gradually be included. Special focus is being given to lane markings, footpath repairs, median strips, green belts, and beautifying the right-of-way along these roads.

It was further said that priority has been given to the renovation of all major roundabouts, improvements to mega parks, restoration of 23 water fountains and urban forest projects to reduce air and water pollution.

The CDA Chairman was briefed that under the beautification and highway improvement project, horticulture and landscaping work will be carried out on model highways with seasonal flowers planted at appropriate locations.

The meeting was further informed that, on the direction of the Chairman CDA, parks in every sector will undergo complete upgrades, including walking tracks, swings, modern lighting, and horticultural enhancements.

The CDA Chairman, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, directed that all 23 water fountains under the CDA's jurisdiction be made operational at the earliest, with decorative lighting installed around them.

Beautiful planters and wooden signboards are already being used on these roads, which have received great appreciation from citizens. Similarly, natural boulders will be placed along the highways for aesthetic appeal. Additionally, modern lighting arrangements are being ensured on these roads.

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ABU DHABI: Rana Iqbal Hussain, Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research and Dr. Abdulhadi Zaid, Prof. General Secretary, Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Second Pakistan International Date Palm Festival 2025 in Abu Dhabi.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretary General will visit Pakistan on April 17-18

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Nurlan Yermekbayev, will visit Pakistan on April 17-18, 2025.

He will be heading a delegation comprising of officials from the SCO Secretariat in Beijing, a press release issued by the foreign office spokesperson said on Wednesday.

During his stay, the secretary general will have meetings with the deputy PM, Minister of Commerce and Foreign Secretary.

He will visit National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Federation

of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). He will also speak at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and engage with business leaders, entrepreneurs and media persons. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a ten-member inter-governmental trans-regional organization. It is the largest regional multilateral organization of the world. SCO region is home to 3.4 billion people (42% of world population). It occupies a landmass of 36 million square kilometers (25% of global landmass) and accounts for a combined GDP of US \$ 24.67

trillion (25% of the global GDP).

The SCO provides an important platform for Pakistan to further strengthen its deep-rooted and historic ties with the member States and promote socio-economic cooperation for mutual benefit across diverse areas.

The visit of the Secretary General of the SCO will provide an opportunity for Pakistan to engage with the SCO Secretariat while highlighting its perspective and priorities for making SCO mechanisms more effective in advancing shared regional security and economic goals.