

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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dquettavoice@gmail.com

Passenger Coach Attacked Near Kalat: 3 Killed, 7 Injured in Firing Incident

Abdullah Lehr:
A tragic firing incident occurred near Kalat's Niemurgh Cross, where unidentified gunmen opened fire on a passenger coach traveling from Karachi to Quetta.

According to police sources, the attack resulted in the death of at least three passengers, while seven others sustained injuries. Law enforcement agencies and rescue teams quickly arrived at the scene, shifting the deceased and injured to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital in Kalat.

Police officials confirmed that the coach was directly targeted by the assailants. "So far, we have received preliminary information, and rescue operations are still underway," a police spokesperson said. Efforts are ongoing to transfer more injured passengers and any other victims to the hospital.

The motive behind the attack is not yet clear. Security forces have cordoned off the area, and an investigation is underway to identify those involved.

Such incidents highlight ongoing security challenges along highways in Balochistan, particularly on routes connecting Karachi and Quetta.



Major Fake Degree Scandal Uncovered at Balochistan Board Office: Student Secured Medical College Admission Through Forgery

Manan Mandokhail:
QUETTA: A serious case of fake educational documents and record tampering has been uncovered at the Balochistan Board Office, Quetta. Investigations by the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Quetta, under orders from the Balochistan High Court, revealed that a student fraudulently secured admission to Bolan Medical College by manipulating his academic records.

According to court order CP No. 533/2025, Saeedullah, son of El Jan, a resident of Washuk district, allegedly colluded with several Balochistan Board officials to obtain a forged marks sheet and fake degree.

These manipulated documents allowed him to gain admission on merit to Bolan Medical College.

Acting on the High Court's directives, ACE Quetta immediately formed a special investigation

team, which reviewed all relevant records and recorded statements from concerned officials. The inquiry confirmed that Saeedullah's original marks were insufficient for medical college admission. However, board officials



misused their authority to issue a tampered marks sheet, falsely inflating his scores.

The investigation report established clear evidence of corruption, forgery, record tampering, and breach of trust against the

involved officials. Based on these findings, the Balochistan High Court ordered formal registration of FIRs and legal action against all individuals implicated. As a result, ACE Quetta arrested six people, including five government officials and the student involved. The arrested individuals are:

- Noor Ahmed — Additional Controller
- Manzoor Hussain — Deputy Controller
- Saeed Ahmed — Assistant Secretary
- Muhammad Aslam — Assistant Secretary
- Abdul Qayoom — Assistant Secretary
- Saeedullah, son of El Jan — Student and beneficiary

According to ACE Director General Abdul Wahid Kakar, further arrests are expected as the investigation expands. "The scope of inquiry has been widened to ensure all those involved in this fraud face the law," he said.

Performance of ministries to be evaluated every two months: PM Shehbaz

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that the performance of ministries will be evaluated every two months following the determination of key performance indicators, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

Chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet in Islamabad, the prime minister said the ministries demonstrating strong performance will be commended.

"From this year, we will determine key performance indicators for the ministries to evaluate their performance every two months," he said, emphasising that enhancing ministries' performance was ultimately about delivery and service to the nation.

Expressing satisfaction over the stock market touching record levels this week, the prime minister said that the development reflected the positive business sentiment and that collective efforts were being made for the economic growth of the country.

PM Shehbaz also expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of lives in recent monsoon rains across the country. He especially regretted the incident in Swat, emphasising the need to take effective measures in the future to prevent such incidents.

Monsoon rains in Pakistan have been linked to more than 110 deaths, including dozens of children, since they started in late

June, according to government figures released on Monday.

On Tuesday, President Asif Ali Zardari and PM Shehbaz reiterated their commitment to working together with each other for



the country's sake.

"The meeting involved discussions on the country's political, economic, and security situation. The state of law and order in the country and measures against terrorism were also discussed," according to a press release by the Presidency.

Last week, PM Shehbaz said that transforming the outdated system into a modern, digital and effective governance model is among the government's top pri-

orities, as economic development and prosperity are not possible without modernising the system to meet contemporary demands.

The federal cabinet approved a 15 per cent increase in pensions

provided by the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI), effective from January 1, 2025, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported. This increase will be funded from the institution's own resources, according to APP.

The prime minister directed the formation of a cabinet committee to introduce institutional reforms in EOBI.

Cabinet Reshuffle in Balochistan Must Prioritize Governance, Not Power Games

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Funeral prayers of martyred police constables held with full official honours in DI Khan

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Shakeel Qadir Khan's Reforms Reshape Balochistan's Public Sector: Focus on Education, Health, and Fiscal Management

By Sheikh Abdul Razaq

Balochistan's provincial administration is undergoing noticeable change, driven by the leadership of Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan. Known for his reform-oriented approach, Shakeel Qadir Khan has introduced key initiatives aimed at modernizing government departments, improving service delivery, and optimizing financial management in Pakistan's largest but least developed province.

etary reforms, and economic policy analysis—introducing a level of professional expertise rarely seen in provincial governance in Pakistan.

By separating technical and administrative roles, and returning unnecessary posts to the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD), the Finance Department now operates as a lean, results-focused unit. This innovation has not only increased financial efficiency in



Working in partnership with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Khan's governance strategy focuses on actionable reforms rather than symbolic announcements.

His leadership has been instrumental in reactivating more than 3,200 government schools in Balochistan, providing thousands of children access to education that had long been denied due to administrative gaps.

Similarly, in the healthcare sector, major breakthroughs have been witnessed. In a landmark moment for the province, a government health facility in Bakhar village delivered a child for the first time in history—an event that symbolizes growing institutional presence in remote areas.

One of Shakeel Qadir Khan's standout achievements is the overhaul of Balochistan's Finance Department.

Under his direction, a specialist wing has been created comprising financial analysts, budget experts, and policy planners recruited from the private sector through a transparent hiring process. This team focuses on data-driven fiscal management, bud-

Balochistan but also set a replicable model for public sector reform in Pakistan.

In parallel, non-development expenditures have been reduced, while development project completion rates have increased, reflecting a dual-focus strategy that prioritizes both cost-saving and public benefit.

Shakeel Qadir Khan's leadership style emphasizes transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric governance—a shift from reactive administration to proactive service delivery. His model shows how reform-oriented leadership can rebuild public trust in government institutions, especially in regions historically marked by underdevelopment and public disillusionment.

As provinces across Pakistan seek to modernize their public sectors, Balochistan's experience under Shakeel Qadir Khan offers a working example of what 21st-century governance reforms can look like—where education, healthcare, fiscal responsibility, and public service delivery go hand in hand with administrative efficiency.

Iran's envoy to Pakistan 'widely respected', says FO after FBI adds him to most wanted list

NEWS DESK: Pakistan on Wednesday stressed that Iran's envoy in Islamabad, Reza Amir Moghadam, was "widely respected" after the United States

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) added him to its 'Most Wanted' list for his alleged role in the 2007 disappearance and suspected abduction of retired FBI agent Robert A. "Bob" Levinson.

"As far as Pakistan is concerned, the ambassador of Iran is widely respected for his role in the promotion of Pakistan-Iran relations," FO spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan told Dawn.com in response to a request for comment on the matter. "He is entitled to all the privileges, immunities and respect due to (being an) ambassador, that too, from a friendly neighbouring country," Shafiq highlighted.

Levinson arrived on Iran's Kish Island on March 8, 2007 and was missing the following day. Notably, a 2013 Associated Press (AP) investigation revealed that Levinson had been sent on a spy mission by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) analysts who had no authority to run such an operation. Levinson's family had received a \$2.5 million annuity from the CIA to stop a lawsuit revealing details of his work, AP reported. In 2020, after the US concluded that Levinson had passed away "some time ago", Iran said he had left the country "long ago"

and that Tehran had no knowledge of his whereabouts, rejecting claims by his family of him dying in Iranian custody.

On Tuesday evening, the FBI's Washington Field Office re-



leased "seeking information" posters of three senior Iranian intelligence officials, whom it blamed for playing key roles in Levinson's disappearance and in efforts to conceal Tehran's alleged involvement. While Pakistani authorities have not been linked to the incident, the case now has a direct connection to Islamabad through Moghadam's diplomatic posting.

The FBI statement said Moghadam had previously headed the operations unit of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), adding that he reportedly oversaw agents operating across Europe during that

time.

However, according to the Iranian foreign ministry's website, Moghadam has worked as deputy of Iran's Supreme National Security Council in foreign and inter-

national policy affairs.

Per the FBI, Moghadam was "suspected of supervising the operation that led to Levinson's disappearance and later taking part in the cover-up."

The FBI's move comes amid heightened tensions between the US and Iran. The US, which has been in talks with Tehran since April 12 for a nuclear deal, joined Israel's war with Iran on June 22, striking three Iranian nuclear sites. The strikes came after warnings by US President Donald Trump to attack Iran if it did not come to an agreement with Washington over its nuclear programme.

Recruitment quota for police martyrs' children increased from 5pc to 12.5pc: Gandapur

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Opinion Column

Cabinet Reshuffle in Balochistan Must Prioritize Governance, Not Power Games

Editor: Asim Khan

Editorial:

Balochistan appears to be on the cusp of a significant political shake-up. According to credible government insider the cabinet reshuffle is expected soon after the passage of the fiscal year 2025-26 provincial budget. While reshuffles are not unusual, the stakes are much higher this time—with growing public discontent over ministerial perks, administrative inefficiencies, and unchecked spending.

Originally planned for post-Eid-ul-Adha, the reshuffle was delayed to ensure the smooth passage of the budget in the Balochistan Assembly. This strategic timing reflects a broader intention: to address rising concerns over accountability, fiscal responsibility, and governance.

What is especially noteworthy is the reported plan to replace non-elected members, particularly advisers and women on reserved seats, with elected lawmakers. If implemented with sincerity, this could help restore public trust and reduce unnecessary government expenditure—especially as some advisers enjoy salaries and allowances equal to full-fledged ministers without the electoral mandate to back them.

Another pressing concern that demands attention is the consistent absence of ministers from their offices. People travel hundreds of kilometers to the Civil Secretariat in Quetta, only to wait in vain for hours or even days. Supporters and citizens are left stranded without even access to clean drinking water, while the ministers remain unavailable. A meaningful reshuffle must bring in dynamic, educated, and service-oriented ministers who are present in their offices, responsive to the public, and capable of addressing basic issues like citizen grievances, infrastructure complaints, and public service delivery. Administrative transparency, good governance, and office accountability must no longer be optional—they must be mandatory.

Moreover, this reshuffle is not just about cutting costs. It comes amid calls for better budget transparency, development fund allocations, and public service reforms. The people of Balochistan are not blind to the lavish benefits enjoyed by ministers as the province grapples with budget deficits, healthcare underfunding, education sector neglect, and rural infrastructure breakdowns.

The political dynamics of this move are also tied to the 2027 Senate elections, where influential and party strength will rely heavily on elected representatives. This makes the upcoming reshuffle not only a matter of governance but also of long-term political strategy.

Still, the reshuffle must be more than a game of musical chairs. If Balochistan's leadership is serious about reform, it should go beyond token changes. Ministers must be evaluated based on performance, transparency, and public engagement—not just political loyalty.

The province deserves a cabinet that reflects competence, accountability, and the will to serve, especially at a time when every rupee spent from the public purse is being scrutinized. This reshuffle is an opportunity to reset the system. Wasting it would only deepen public frustration.

Quetta: Contaminated water posing a serious threat to human health

Abdul Razzaq Khilji:

Fresh and clean water is an essential part of human life. It stands second to the air for the existence of all human beings and it is now a globally known fact that groundwater quality is as important as its quantity. Balochistan is becoming the fastest water-scarce province of the country particularly in urban areas including the Quetta sub-basin where 90% of the drinking water is utilized from groundwater. Groundwater quality has a direct impact on the health and welfare of the inhabitants therefore fresh and clean water supply need to be prioritized.

Drinking water must be free from pathogenic organisms. Water from any source must suit the purpose for which it is intended whereas drinking water must be free from pathogenic organisms and its chemical and physical qualities must also be suitable for human consumption. Accordingly, groundwater contamination is approximately constantly the consequence of human activities. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the most common waterborne diseases are Coliforms and E. Coli that originate from wastes and intestines of animals and sig-

nal contamination in drinking water during testing. A recent report of the Irrigation Department indicates that the high rate of Coliform and E. Coli bacteria was found in the water of Quetta which signals contaminations in the drinking water that may affect human health and cause severe illness, as such gastrointestinal, vomiting, cramps, diarrhea, muscle aches, and headache. However, anyone can get sick from drinking contaminated water but children, the elderly, and people with weak immune systems are at a higher risk of the harmful effects.

Balochistan Vulnerable to Climate Crisis

It is noteworthy that almost 30 districts of Balochistan have been badly hit by the current climate emergency. People who were already drowning in man made

The Future of Pakistan's Higher Education – Where Are We Heading

Dr. Faisal Ahmed Khan:

One year on, the chaos continues at the highest institution mandated to oversee higher education in the country. At the Higher Education Commission, the current chairman, Dr. Tariq Binuri, is still battling for his survival. While Dr. Binuri might barely complete his term this May, the future of higher education in Pakistan is set on a downward spiral.

The Higher Education Commission has evolved as an institution in two decades, assimilating many essential attributes and continually weeding out ill practices along the way. Exactly when the institution was in the middle of its development, it was struck with an unneeded blow of an arbitrary ordinance.

The events that followed, it has directly exposed higher education to the whims of the power corridors for good.

The status of the Higher Education Commission is fast on its way to becoming a mere equivalent of a board of intermediate and secondary education overseeing tertiary education. It is approaching being completely subsumed in the black hole of public officialdom. Perhaps it was frowned upon as a peculiar case

of higher education in the country will be, in no way, better than what we have at the primary and secondary levels.

Another consequence of the above scenario is that higher education will inspire attention at the helm in the provinces. While there is no harm in overseeing higher education at the provincial level, if unchecked, this will, however, incur its own heavy cost—one that is exemplified in the recent decision to merge the Paktunkhwa. Initiating new universities with arbitrary plans, mysterious appointments of key university officials, increasing political influence in the university management, and wrecking the already scarce financial resources are among a few recent proceedings in higher education at KP.

Provincial-level, higher education is merely treated as part of the riches to distribute among the stakeholders of the government

Similar occurrences are likely to follow in other provinces given

the frail existence of the HEC. At the provincial level, higher education is merely treated as part of the riches to distribute among the stakeholders of the government. As a result, the only matters of interest in higher education will remain the number of appointments (excessive and unjust), promotions based on kinships, unfair admissions, undeserved scholarships, and illegal award of contracts to desired contractors. Anything about institution making, quality education, and impactful research will only be deceptive slogans.

It is not intended here to establish that everything has been exquisite in higher education in the past. There is a long list of improvements and reforms that were still required to uphold the actual spirit of a regulator and patron of higher education in the country. Some might argue that the existing model in the HEC required delegation within the institution instead of concentration of power with the chairman. A more inclusive model of working with the universities and the provinces was required. Therefore, a reflection within the institution was needed instead of an intrusion from above. The ad-

ministrator has summed it well: "The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

The Looming threat of Climate Crisis in Pakistan

Sardar Mengal:

Climate change is unleashing its worst effects in the form of heavy rainfalls and disastrous floods. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had already waved multiple red flags about dire consequences of climate change in Pakistan. The authorities should have been on their toes in response to the contours of the crisis but we witnessed everything otherwise.

Balochistan Vulnerable to Climate Crisis

It is noteworthy that almost 30 districts of Balochistan have been badly hit by the current climate emergency. People who were already drowning in man made

disasters of inflation, poverty, political crisis are currently drowning in a Natural disaster. Nushki, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Bolan and Jhal Magsi received much of the inflictions of flash floods.

People were left stranded to flow with the waves as seen in footages, circulating on social media. Unfortunately, disturbing pictures of dead bodies of children covered with mud, families who were sitting helplessly on debris of their houses and sinking valuables of the people couldn't awaken the government from its stupor. Even more gloomily, the enraging waves of floods-engulfing lives and property, everything into dust & debris and

wreaking havoc all around—couldn't merit breaking news on national media.

Prior disregard and later delayed response have multiplied the inflictions of the catastrophe. Loss of land communication has further isolated the stricken areas making true estimation of the destruction more exhausting.

Timely decision and act can reduce the effect of Climate Change

To stop ballooning problems into crisis; rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations should be carried out on full scale as the current pace is insufficient to meet the requirement. NDMA and PDMA need to reach out

to the peripheral areas that are out of the radar.

It's high time for the provincial and federal coalition government to pay special attention to those whose lives are at the stake. Political parties need to rise above the traditional politics and launch concerted efforts to help out the calamity stricken at the earliest. Social welfare organisations should come forward to heal the lesions of suffering humans. On national media, there should be special discourse and discussion on settlement and rehabilitation of the affected people.

In addition to ensuring re-building of eroded infrastructure, compensation for losses, clean water, adequate supply of food,

there should be numerous measures in pipeline to overcome the post-flood outcomes such as increased risk of infectious diseases. The flood-stricken area can become a breeding ground for many health related problems. Supplying preventive medicines and upholding the precautionary measures can halt the onslaught of infectious diseases.

The state machinery in its all forms should come into play to navigate a safe passage out of this hurricane of climate emergency enveloping us now.

The author is a final year MBBS student at King Edward Medical University Lahore, Pakistan. He can be reached on twitter via @SardarMengal11.

IRC reaches to 29,000 out of school girls in Balochistan

By Shakoor Khan:

International Rescue Committee (IRC) under its Teach & Educate Adolescent Girls with Community Fund Society for Community Strengthening and Promotion of Education, Balochistan, Institute for Development Studies and Practices, Japan International Co-operation Agency also attended the event.

The event hosted conversations with multiple stakeholders including education experts and government functionaries on the barriers faced by girls in the province in pursuing their education and discussed possible solutions to combat those barriers.

A salient feature of the project IRC is while highlighting the salient feature of the project IRC chief in Balochistan Shareef Mengal said under the 'Girls Learn' stream of the project, 22,000 girls received classes on Package A, B and C of non-formal curriculum, of them 4000 enrolled in mainstream formal schooling system.

Under 'Girls Earn' stream of the project, 7000 girls completed Package A of the non-formal curriculum, out of these 7000 girls, 5000 received training

on financial literacy and business development planning. 2400 girls received training on 8 vocational trades and toolkits and 250 girls received financial grants to start a business.

Naseebullah Marri, Education Minister Balochistan

on the occasion urged that "We must do our part to remove the barriers faced by girls in the region so that every girl can pursue her education and become a valuable member of society."

The Government is making all out efforts to combat the low literacy rate which has affected girls from all ethnic groups, and socioeconomic backgrounds."

We are committed to assist and contribute to building economic prosperity, and educated Balochistan, so every child has access to education.

He however welcomed the support extended by the International Rescue Committee for providing educational and vocational training opportunities, saying he is very grateful for the on-ground initiative of community-based schools in Balochistan."

Abdul Razi Baloch – Secretary Secondary Education on the occasion

facilities and quality of education.

The event was a culmination of three sessions where the first was hosted to discuss the barriers faced by girls in pursuing their education. The panelists of the first session classified the barriers into 3 categories: Cultural, Economic and Service Delivery. The panelists recommended Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs) as a viable option while integrated with skill-based trainings and digitalization.

Initiatives to combat the barriers to education

The second session initiated the non-formal education to combat the barriers with the help of Non-Formal Education in bridging the gap between primary and secondary schooling.

Chairperson of the session, Mr. Abdul Khaliq – Chief Planning Officer Policy, Planning, and Implementation Unit welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of solutions to these barriers. Mr. Ashraf Ghehki – Director Literacy and Non-Formal Education

shared contribution of NFE department toward provision of second chance of education to out-of-school children.

Personal struggles in overcoming the barriers to education

The third and final session gave the TEACH clients an opportunity to express their personalized struggles in overcoming the barriers to education.

Anam – client of TEACH project from Pishin shared that after joining TEACH ALP center, she can read books and newspapers. Simra from the same district shared that her parents don't allow travelling long distances to attend school but after opening of ALP center at doorstep, she was able to join the classroom for first time in her life. Haleema from Nushki district shared that her mother is the only breadwinner of household and works at households of others to earn income. Haleema shared that she is the only child of her family who can read, and she wants to join ALP center.



Girl's education is correlated with lower rates of poverty

focus on Girls' Education through adequate resources. Girls' education in Balochistan is one of the biggest challenges faced by the country and to deal with it we must work with innovative methods like Non-Formal Education.

He further added that, "Over the years, we have realized that if girls are unable to reach school, all stakeholders need to fill the gap and provide access to life-long learning opportunities like productive skills and life-skills within communities."

Zain Ul Abedin Khan, Deputy Director Programs, IRC, in his remarks said that "We as a society need to commit to prioritize and

facilities and quality of education. The event was a culmination of three sessions where the first was hosted to discuss the barriers faced by girls in pursuing their education. The panelists of the first session classified the barriers into 3 categories: Cultural, Economic and Service Delivery. The panelists recommended Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs) as a viable option while integrated with skill-based trainings and digitalization.

Initiatives to combat the barriers to education

Deputy CM slams police misconduct with Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, July 16 (INP). The Deputy Chief Minister of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, has denounced the police manhandling of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and preventing him from paying tributes to July 13 martyrs, calling it a shameful insult to democratic norms.

Speaking to the media in Srinagar,

Choudhary criticized the Lieutenant Governor for his continued silence, pointing out that while it took 82 days to acknowledge the Pahalgam attack, the LG has yet to address the unjust treatment of Omar Abdullah at the hands of the police, for which he owes a public apology.

"This is not just an insult to Omar Sahib, who is an elected Chief Minister," he said. "It is an insult to democracy in

Kashmir, an insult to India's democracy, and an insult to the people who gave us their mandate."

When asked about the ongoing concerns regarding statehood, the Deputy CM responded firmly, "Statehood is a separate issue. But if anyone thinks they can insult our leader or humiliate him, and we'll stay silent let me make it clear: neither will we tolerate it, nor will

the people of [occupied] Jammu and Kashmir." He added, "What happened yesterday — whether people speak up about it or not is an insult to every Indian who cast their vote."

The remarks follow restrictions placed on political leaders, including Omar Abdullah, from paying tributes in Srinagar on July 13 a move that has sparked outrage across political circles.



GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Hamood-ur-Rehman presenting a souvenir to Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Javed Anwar Chaudhary on behalf of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

United Kingdom (UK) officially lifts ban on Pakistani airlines

ISLAMABAD (INP). The United Kingdom has officially lifted its long-standing ban on Pakistani airlines, a development confirmed by British High Commissioner Jane Marriott.

The British High Commission announced that Pakistan has been removed from the UK's Air Safety List, allowing Pakistani airlines to now apply for permission to operate flights to the United Kingdom.

This decision follows recognition by the UK's Air Safety Committee of the improvements made by Pakistan in its aviation safety systems. According to the High Commission, while Pakistani airlines must still obtain operational approval from the UK Civil Aviation Authority,

the removal from the list is being seen as a major milestone. The process was conducted independently

and based solely on technical assessment. Highlighting the broader context of bilateral ties,

the British High Commission noted that the UK is Pakistan's third-largest trading partner, with trade exceeding £4.7 billion. Improved air travel options are expected to further strengthen this partnership.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott expressed gratitude for the cooperation between Pakistani and UK aviation experts.

"While the resumption of flights will take time, I look forward to traveling on a Pakistani airline," she said, adding that enhanced air connectivity will help reunite families and deepen people-to-people ties.

It is important to note that changes to the UK Air Safety List are made through an impartial, technical evaluation overseen by the UK's Air Safety Committee.

Funeral prayers of martyred police constables held with full official honours in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP). The funeral prayers of police constables Ghulam Muhammad and Shehzad, who were martyred in a terrorist attack in Kulachi, were held with full official honours at Police Lines Dera Ismail Khan on Wednesday.

According to the police spokesman, Commissioner Dera Division Zafarul Islam Khattak, Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Syed Ashfaq Anwar, District Police Officer (DPO) Dera Sajjad Ahmad Sahibzada, other senior officials, and the families of the martyrs attended the funeral.

A police contingent presented a salute to the martyrs, while flower wreaths were placed on the coffins. Special prayers were offered for their high

ranks in the hereafter. RPO Dera Syed Ashfaq Anwar said on the occasion that the sacrifice of the police martyrs is a source of pride for the entire force. He said their blood will not go in vain, and strict action will be taken against those responsible.

"One of the terrorists involved in the attack was killed during the exchange of fire, while two others

were injured. Comprehensive search and strike operations are actively underway to track down and arrest the remaining culprits. We are determined to bring all those responsible to justice at the earliest," the RPO added.

He further assured the families that the police department stands firmly with them and will provide all possible support.

Shopping bag makers challenges ban in Sindh High Court (SHC)

KARACHI (INP). The shopping bag makers on Wednesday approached the Sindh High Court (SHC) challenging the ban imposed by the Sindh government on plastic bags.

The Sindh government has notified a ban on the production, sale, and use of plastic bags throughout the province.

The lawyer of two plastic shopping bag makers informed the court that the stake-

holders were not consulted before the prohibition. "Owing to sudden ban, it was impossible to deliver manufactured consignments," counsel further said.

The ban on plastic bags, has affected thousands of people affiliated with the industry, petitioners added.

Director Sindh Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Imran Sabir appeared before the court in person.

The environment agency's lawyer said that the plastic shopping bags have been prohibited internationally.

Regional countries Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and others have also imposed ban on plastic shopping bags as well as the Prime Minister's Secretariat has also instructed for the ban, Sepa counsel said.

"It is not the issue of Sindh only, but it is a national issue," lawyer said. "The government has imposed ban on only two from eight categories of plastic," he further said.

"Only 20 percent plastic shopping bags prepared locally," the lawyer added.

"Inform the court how much tax you have paid in the previous financial year," the bench directed petitioners.

The high court bench adjourned further hearing of the case until July 23.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf chaired the Command & Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy concluded held at Naval Headquarters.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Member (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai meeting with Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail.

Karak demands priority access to its own natural gas

KARAK (INP). The announcement of new gas production from Karak's Nashpa field is a welcome development, but it has renewed calls from the district to prioritize access for local communities.

Citing Article 158 of the Constitution, residents maintain that access to natural gas is not a favour, but a rightful entitlement that must no longer be overlooked.

In early June 2025, the Pakistan Oil and Gas Development Company (OGDCL) announced a major increase in production at the Nashpa gas field. Producing 7.7 million standard cubic feet of gas per day, this

relies on wood or gas cylinders for heating and cooking.

"It's not fair that a gas-rich district is deprived of its own resource while others ben-

efit," Malik Hidayatullah, a former leader of the Khattak Ittehad, a social welfare group in the district, said while talking to APP.

"People are growing weary, but the challenges remain. We respectfully urge our political leadership to raise this longstanding issue with the relevant authorities, so that a fair and lasting solution can be achieved."

Advocacy for gas access in Karak dates back to the early 2000s. The Khattak Ittehad, along with community leaders, launched a campaign for gas infrastructure. This finally led to gas connections for some villages like Latamber, Chokara, and Takhti-Nasrati, but the majority remains neglected. Haji Noor Muhammad, who

served as the general secretary of the organization at the time, talking to this scribe recalled the local community's peaceful efforts to have their voices heard.

"It took nearly two months of continuous engagement before dialogue resumed," he shared. Even then, it took several years for connections to be established, and in some areas like Latamber, the gas supply lasted only a short time before being discontinued.

The authorities cited issues like theft and unauthorized use as reasons for the disruption. While such acts are indeed illegal, many argue that they point to a deeper systemic failure: denying legal access to thousands of families has left them with few options.

As Luton and Slough host key meetings, Kashmir March gains momentum

LONDON (INP). The Kashmir March, scheduled for August 5 in London, is gaining momentum with key meetings held in Luton and Slough, the UK, to mobilize support.

The meetings were hosted by Haji Muhammad Shafait, Chairman of Luton Central Mosque, and Sardar Amjad Abbasi, former Mayor of Slough.

Fahim Kayani, President of the All Parties Alliance UK, and Inamul Haq, Secretary General of APIKCC, participated in and addressed the gatherings. The meetings coincided with Kashmir Martyrs' Day, observed annually on July 13, to honor the 22 Kashmiris who were martyred by the Dogra Army in Srinagar in 1931 while completing the call to prayer (Azan). Fahim

Kayani paid tribute to the martyrs, emphasizing their stand against tyranny, occupation, and oppression.

Fahim Kayani highlighted the significance of August 5 in the Kashmiri resistance narrative, marking the day when the Indian government unilaterally revoked Articles 370 and 35A of its Constitution in 2019.

This move stripped Kashmiris of their political identity, land rights, and legal protections, and was carried out without the consent of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Kayani condemned India's actions as "demographic terrorism" and emphasized the need for international attention to human rights abuses in occupied Kashmir.

The community leaders urged the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora to unite and

participate in the Kashmir March, calling it a crucial opportunity to raise their collective voice against injustice, occupation, and human rights abuses in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Prominent among those who attended the meetings include:

Fahim Kayani, Inamul Haq, Haji Muhammad Shafait, Sardar Amjad Abbasi and Tahir Malik while key community leaders from Luton and Slough including Ch. Zia-ur-Rahman Hussain and Riaz Butt were also in attendance.

The leaders jointly called on the diaspora to take part in large numbers in the Kashmir March on August 5 in London, emphasizing the need for solidarity with the Kashmiri people and their struggle for self-determination.

Rain-related incidents claim 10 lives in Lahore

LAHORE (INP). Calamitous rainfall in Lahore submerged several areas of the provincial capital city claiming at least 10 lives in various incidents. Main traffic arteries of the city have been drowned under the rainwater. Around 10 people killed across the city in incidents of electrocution and falling rooftops during the downpour started at 9:10 PM on Tuesday night.

Two children, 15-year-old Awaris and 13-year-old Esha died in an electrocution incident in Harbanaspur of Lahore. Separately, five persons of a family died and two injured when a roof collapsed at Mirsial in Thokar Niaz Beg, while three others died and scores were injured in roof collapse in Rawalpindi.

The Met Office and the PDMA have predicted heavy rainfall during next 24 hours under the third monsoon spell in Punjab. Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).



ISLAMABAD: Quang, Second Secretary and Head of Economic and Cultural Diplomacy at the Embassy of Vietnam in Pakistan meeting with Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division Aurangzeb Khan Khichi at his office.

Security along CPEC motorway route from Abdul Khel to Yarik Interchange reviewed

D I KHAN (INP). Regional Police Officer (RPO), Dera Ismail Khan, Syed Ashfaq Anwar on Wednesday conducted a detailed inspection of security arrangements along the CPEC motorway route from Abdul Khel to Yarik Interchange.

Accompanied by District Police Officer

Sajjad Sahibzada, SP Paharpur Asad Ali Shah, and SP

Motorway Atiq-ur-Rehman, the RPO reviewed measures in place to ensure the safety of commuters.

During the visit, he met with officers of the Motorway Police and District Elite Force at the Yarik Interchange and presided over a

high-level meeting focused on strengthening security protocols.

The Motorway Police provided a comprehensive briefing on current arrangements, after which key decisions were made to enhance coordination and response capacity. RPO Anwar emphasized that ensuring public safety and se-

curity of the CPEC route is a top priority, directing joint patrols and full utilization of available resources. He further instructed the DPO Dera to intensify search and strike operations in surrounding areas, monitor suspicious activity, and neutralize any potential threats through coordinated action with allied forces.

Major development project underway in Buner district

PESHAWAR (INP): A major development project focused on improving road connectivity is actively underway in Buner district.

The same initiative aiming to provide the local population with improved travel facilities and better infrastructure.

Under the project, the Swari-Dewana Baba Road is being widened, improved and blacktopped over a stretch of 11 kilometers,

which also includes the construction of an RCC (Reinforced Cement Concrete) bridge at Tingo. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs 1,464.977 million.

Under Package No. 4, the project includes the construction of a 3.5-kilometer road from Chinari Pul to Karpas Kandao and a 1-kilometer drainage system for wastewater in Cheena Bazaar. This portion alone is being executed at a cost of Rs.

Speaking on the project, Provincial Minister Syed Fakhar Jahan stated that public welfare and development are his top priorities.

Practical steps are being taken to fulfill the longstanding demands of the people of Buner by providing them with essential civic facilities. He further emphasized

that this project will not only improve access and mobility but will also promote regional development opportunities and stimulate the local economy.

The minister added that relevant departments have been given strict instructions to ensure timely and high-quality completion of all development projects, and that the journey of progress will continue across the entire province.

Local inhabitants have warmly welcomed this initiative and expressed their gratitude to Provincial Minister Syed Fakhar Jahan over initiating the same public demanded project.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, in a meeting with Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Peter Mhogo Njiru, High Commissioner of Kenya to Pakistan, to discuss agricultural and trade cooperation.

PTI's former aviation minister's reckless statement caused PIA losses worth billions of rupees: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that a reckless statement made by the former aviation minister during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) era caused the national airline, PIA, losses worth billions of rupees.

He stated that PTI founder Imran Khan and Ghulam Sarwar together turned PIA into a graveyard.

Speaking at a press conference following the removal of Pakistan's name from the UK's air safety list, Khawaja Asif said that this development is a significant milestone.

He accused former aviation minister Ghulam Sarwar of making baseless allegations against his own institution, which led to the ban during the PTI government.

He added that Ghulam Sarwar's irresponsible statement not only financially harmed the national airline but also damaged the country's dignity. He termed the state-

ment a criminal act against the state and criticised Sarwar for never offering an explanation.

Asif said the responsibility for the PIA ban lies with PTI, and both Imran Khan and Ghulam Sarwar are to blame for PIA's downfall. He hinted at possible legal action against Ghulam Sarwar, saying that no one would be given a clean chit.

He also highlighted that nearly 10 million overseas Pakistanis travel via PIA, and lifting the ban will ease travel for Pakistanis residing in the UK.

Khawaja Asif said that ending the ban will also positively impact PIA's privatization process. He revealed that the government plans to privatize PIA in the next phase by first restoring its international routes.

He thanked global regulators for their guidance and appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's personal interest in restoring PIA's routes.

He confirmed that PIA has now been granted permission to operate in the UK again, calling it an important day for Pakistan's aviation sector.

He said the good news is that this development will also enhance PIA's value in the privatization process.

The defence minister further stated that efforts are being made to resume flights to New York, and it is the government's responsibility to determine why the ban was imposed in the first place. Pakistan will now apply for operating licenses for its flights abroad.

Khawaja Asif concluded by saying that the revival and progress of PIA is the result of the hard work of many individuals and institutions.

He called it a "historic day" for the entire nation and congratulated the people of Pakistan for helping bring a national institution back on its feet.

NAB upgrades inquiry into Kohistan mega corruption scandal

PESHAWAR (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has officially upgraded the inquiry into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohistan mega corruption scandal to a formal investigation. NAB's latest actions in the province have uncovered further shocking details.

According to official records, assets worth a total of Rs25 billion have so far been recovered and seized in the case. NAB has confiscated over Rs1 billion in cash, foreign currency, and more than three kilograms of gold.

Additionally, 73 bank accounts in various commercial banks—containing over Rs5 billion—have been frozen.

NAB has also seized 77 luxury vehicles and taken control of 109 properties in various cities, including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Abbottabad, and Mansehra. These include 4 farmhouses, 12 commercial plazas, 2 com-

mercial plots, 30 houses, 12 shops and food courts, 25 flats and penthouses, and 175 kanals of agricultural land. The total estimated value of these properties is around Rs1 billion.

According to government sources, the arrest of high-profile individuals is expected within the next 24 to 48 hours, and preparations are underway. This massive fraud was carried out with extreme cunning and a clear nexus involving government officials, greedy contractors, complicit bank authorities, and others.

All the accused operated with shocking boldness, quietly siphoning billions from the national treasury without alerting any financial oversight institution. NAB has arrested contractor Muhammad Ayub, who is involved in the Kohistan scandal. Around Rs 3 billion were transferred to his account, and he also purchased Azam Swati's house using the embezzled funds.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting.

Recruitment quota for police martyrs' children increased from 5pc to 12.5pc: Gandapur

PESHAWAR (INP): KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has said that the recruitment quota for the children of the police martyrs to the posts of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) has been increased from 5% to 12.5% and the heirs of 280 martyrs have already been recruited under the new quota.

He was addressing a Police Darbar during his visit to Police Lines here on Wednesday.

The chief minister said that the budget of the Police Force for the current financial year has been increased from Rs.124 billion to Rs.158 billion. He said that increase in the salary of police force was their due right and added that he has increased the salaries of KP Police personnel to bring them at par with other provinces of the country.

He said that the nations, which honour their martyrs become undefeatable in defence, saying till honouring martyrs and their families, the spirit of sacrifice could not be created in Police personnel.

He said that the martyrs of

police force have sacrificed their lives to protect our lives. He added that the families of martyrs would be given standing reception which-ever public sector office is visited by them. He said that the staff of the Chief Minister's Secretariat will also give standing welcome to the families of the martyrs.

The chief minister said that police force is being provided resources on priority basis and during last one year, they had worked a lot on meeting the deficiency faced by them in head of resources and vowed that no hurdle will be created in head of the provision of resources to police.

He said that as per announcement made by him, the heirs of martyrs would be allotted free residential plots in the public sector housing societies during the current fiscal year. He said that the provincial exchequer is available to protect the life and properties of the police force and general public.

Ali Amin Khan Gandapur said that the protection of the Police Force is their first pri-

ority, and they have been equipped with modern equipment and arms in first instance. He urged the police officers and personnel to pay no heed to the recommendation of any one and provide merit-based justice to the people.

He said that he has not made a single referral to police in the capacity of chief minister, so when the chief is not making any recommendation, then referral of no one should be accepted in this regard and all steps should be taken on the basis of merit.

He told the police officers to ensure that none of the common men should be deprived of justice to save the oppressor from the punishment. He said that in the capacity of the chief minister, he will provide full support to the police force in this regard.

The chief minister asked the personnel of the traffic police to minimize the issuance of challans to poor workers on the basis of minor violations, issue them maximum warnings. He said that common men meet their ends hardly and cannot afford heavy challans.

ECP asks political parties to submit Form-D no later than Aug 29

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), has issued an official reminder to the heads of all political parties to submit their consolidated statements of accounts to the ECP (Form-D) pertaining to the fiscal year 2024-25 no later than August 29.

"In terms of section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with section 204 of the Act and rule 159 & 160 of the Election Rules, 2017, therefore, that the political parties are required to file with Election Commission their Consolidated Statement of Accounts on (Form-D) for financial year 2024-25 ended on 30th June, 2025 on or before 29th August, 2025," said a press release issued here.

It may be recalled that Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that a Political Party shall, in such a manner as may be prescribed, submit to the Commission, within sixty days from the close of a financial year, a consolidated statement of its ac-

counts audited by a Chartered Accountant on Form-D containing annual income and expenses, sources of its funds and assets and liabilities. The Consolidated Statement of Accounts to be submitted to the Election Commission complete in all respect and shall accompany by report of a Chartered Accountant with regard to the audit of accounts of a political party and a certificate signed by an officer-bearer authorized by the party Head stating that—No funds were received by the party from any source prohibited under the Elections Act, 2017.

i. The statement of accounts contains an accurate picture of the financial position of the party.

ii. The information given above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

iii. The above statement is audited by the Chartered Accountant and detailed report thereof is annexed.

The statement of accounts

is to be submitted on Form-D as provided in the Elections Act, 2017. Printed Forms are available, free of cost, in the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad and in the offices of the Provincial Election Commissioners, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Form-D/Proforma for source of funds are also available on ECP's Website. Overwriting should be avoided. The attested copy of Membership / Certificate issued by ICAP in respect of Auditor engaged shall be annexed to the Form-D along with last valid renewal certificate.

The Form-D shall also accompany a legible copy of each of the bank statements for the period of 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025 of the party, along with a bank reconciliation statement. The subject statement shall be addressed to the Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan, Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad and shall be delivered through an officer bearer of the party.



ISLAMABAD: Park Jaelark, Chargé D'affaires of Korea called on Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

Court grants major relief to former Punjab CM Chaudhry Parvez Elahi

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench has granted major relief to former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi by suspending a decision made by the accountability court.

The two-member bench, comprising Justice Shahram Sarwar and Justice Sajid Mahmood Sethi, issued a notice to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) while hearing Elahi's writ petition.

The bench suspended the accountability court's order in

graft case and exempted him from personal appearances before the NAB court.

Elahi was represented by advocates Sardar Abdul Razaq Khan and Amir Saeed Raan before the High Court's division bench.

During the hearing, Elahi's lawyer argued that the former chief minister is an elderly politician and is currently undergoing medical treatment in Lahore due to ill health, making it difficult for him to appear in court on every hearing date. The trial court had un-

lawfully dismissed his application for exemption from personal appearance, the lawyer claimed. Justice Shahram Sarwar questioned the NAB prosecutor about their objection to granting Elahi an exemption.

The prosecutor responded that Elahi's illness was not severe enough to warrant such relief. After the preliminary hearing, the court admitted the petition for regular proceedings, suspended the accountability court's earlier decision, and issued notices to NAB for a detailed hearing.



ISLAMABAD: University Town Housing Society effects Umar Siddique Khattak, Arshad Hussain Zalmi and others are holding a press conference at NPC.