

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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Five Suspected Suicide Bombers Held as Infiltration Bid Foiled Near Pak Afghan Border

Monitoring Desk:

QUETTA: Security officials have confirmed that Pakistani forces successfully thwarted an infiltration attempt along the Pak-Afghan border and arrested five suspected suicide bombers. The development was first reported by state-run broadcaster Pakistan Television (PTV), quoting security sources.

According to PTV, on July 17 at around 5:00 pm, a group of suspected militants labeled as "Khawarij" by security agencies tried to cross into Pakistani territory from Afghanistan.

Acting on immediate intelligence, security forces set up multiple checkpoints and blocked their movement.

PTV further stated that the suspects moved towards Azizkhel and Mandikhel areas but, facing strong resistance, sought shelter in a mosque in Besikhel. Security forces swiftly surrounded the mosque, leading to the peaceful surrender of all five individuals.



Security officials confirmed to PTV that all five arrested suspects are Afghan nationals between 15 and 18 years of age, with three of them possessing Afghan identity cards. The suspects have been moved to an undisclosed location for further investigation.

Following the incident, border security has been tightened, and search operations are ongoing to deter any further infiltration attempts.

Security sources also alleged via PTV that hostile foreign elements, including India, are actively supporting such infiltration efforts by backing Khawarij-linked groups to destabilize Pakistan.

Field Marshal, Libyan armed forces' chief agree on defence industrial collaboration: ISPR

NEWS DESK: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir and Libyan Armed Forces' Commander in Chief Lt Gen Saddam Khalifa Haftar agreed on their countries' collaboration in the defence industry, the military's media affairs wing said on Friday.

Lt Gen Haftar, called on COAS Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi today, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a press release.

"Both leaders agreed to undertake defence industrial collaboration and exchange of technical expertise to address contemporary security challenges," the ISPR stated.



It noted that the meeting "encompassed discussion on matters of mutual interest, evolving regional dynamics, security challenges and matters pertaining to defence cooperation."

Libyan armed forces' chief laid a floral wreath at the 'Yadgar-i-Shuhada (martyrs' monument) to pay homage to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army.

"He was offered a warm welcome, followed by guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army," the statement said.

In May, Libya's capital of Tripoli witnessed the worst clashes in years after the killing of a major militia leader.

The fighting calmed down two days later after the government announced a ceasefire, residents said.

President Asif Ali Zardari had visited Libya during his previous tenure in May 2009. He met with then-Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi in Tripoli, where they vowed to bolster bilateral ties and agreed to boost economic cooperation between the two countries.

Reko Diq Project Set to Boost Balochistan's Development and Create Thousands of Jobs: RDMC Officials

Manan Mandokhail:

QUETTA: The Reko Diq copper and gold project is poised to become a turning point in Balochistan's development journey, said Zarrar Jamali, Country Manager of Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), during a ceremony honoring engineers recently trained under the International Graduate Development Program (IGDP).

Speaking at the event in Quetta, Jamali described Reko Diq as one of the world's largest copper and gold mining ventures.

He highlighted its expected role in driving progress for both Balochistan and Pakistan once production begins by late 2028. Shields were presented to young engineers from Balochistan districts who completed 18 months of practical training at Barrick's Veladero mine in Argentina.

Jamali noted that RDMC, in partnership with Barrick Gold Corporation, had already implemented welfare initiatives for local communities, including clean water, healthcare, and education services.

Adding to the details,

RDMC's Head of HR, Hanno Staden, said the IGDP aims to integrate Balochistan's youth into the mining industry through global-standard training.

In 2024, another batch of 18 young engineers from 11 districts was sent for training in Argentina and Zambia. Staden shared that currently, 75% of RDMC's workforce comes from Balochistan, with Chagai district contributing 65%. Additionally,

14% of the workforce consists of women.

Communications Manager Samia Shah outlined the project's ownership structure, clarifying that Barrick Gold holds 50% shares, while 25% belong to federal entities and 25% to the Balochistan government, including a 10% free-carried interest. She emphasized that 90% of mineral processing would occur within Balochistan, maximizing local benefits.

Samia also shared key employment statistics: around 7,500 jobs will be created during the construction phase, while approximately 3,500 permanent positions will exist once mining operations begin. In total, the project is projected to generate over 25,000 indirect job opportunities across supply chains and related industries.



Adding to the details,

PDMA warns of possible Indus flooding at Kalabagh, Chashma

NEWS DESK: Punjab's Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Friday issued a high flood warning for the Indus River at Kalabagh and Chashma, following the province's deadliest day of the ongoing monsoon season a day earlier, which claimed at least 63 lives amid widespread urban and riverine flooding.

The Flood Forecasting Division has warned that the Indus River is likely to attain high flood levels at Kalabagh and Chashma within the next 24 hours. In a letter issued to the divisional commissioners of Sargodha and Dera Ghazi Khan,

the PDMA stressed the need for heightened preparedness and directed district administrations to coordinate closely with relevant departments for a unified and prompt response.

Officials have been instructed to activate flood monitoring and early warning systems, ensure that Rescue 1122 remains on high alert with search and rescue teams pre-positioned, and establish relief and medical camps at safe locations with adequate provision of amenities such as food, electricity, clean drinking water, and sanitation.

District Emergency Opera-



Quetta: Contaminated water posing a serious threat to human health

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Sherry stresses 'Modern Met systems' essential amid climate threats

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Vehicle of Balochistan Constabulary Officers Targeted in Mastung Firing Incident

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: A vehicle carrying officers from the Balochistan Constabulary came under attack near Choto on the National Highway in Mastung district.

According to Balochistan government's spokesperson Shahid Rind, unidentified armed assailants opened fire on the official vehicle, which was carrying senior personnel including an acting DSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police).

As per initial reports, one officer lost his life while three others sustained injuries in the attack. The injured have been shifted to the nearest hospital for

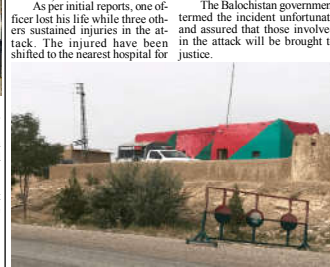
emergency medical treatment.

Shahid Rind further stated that security forces and law enforcement agencies promptly reached the scene.

The area has been cordoned off, and a search operation is underway to track down the attackers.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan has taken notice of the incident and directed police and security agencies to submit a detailed report.

The Balochistan government termed the incident unfortunate and assured that those involved in the attack will be brought to justice.



FO says Pakistan has 'dismantled' terrorist outfits amid US designation of group blamed for Pahalgam attack

NEWS DESK: The Foreign Office (FO) on Friday reaffirmed Pakistan's stance against terrorism, saying that the country has "effectively and comprehensively dismantled" terrorist outfits.

The statement follows the US State Department's decision on Thursday to designate a little-known group called The Resistance Front (TRF) — responsible for the Pahalgam attack — as a foreign terrorist organisation (FTO) and specially designated global terrorist (SDGT) group.

The April 22 attack — which resulted in the deaths of 26 people — sparked a military confrontation between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan as New Delhi blamed it on Islamabad.

The statement further said that the investigations into the Pahalgam incident were "still inconclusive".

According to a BBC News report in June, the group had initially said it was behind the attack, but later disowned it.

The US State Department claimed that the little-known group was a "front and proxy" of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). "TRF has also claimed responsibility for several attacks against Indian security forces, including most recently in 2024," it added.

State Department said in a statement. In a statement today, the FO said, "Any linkage with LeT, a defunct organisation banned in Pakistan, belies ground realities."

"Pakistan has effectively and comprehensively dismantled concerned outfits, arrested and prosecuted the leadership, and deradicalised its cadres," it added.

"Pakistan condemns terrorism in all forms and manifestations; zero tolerance, and international cooperation against terrorism are cornerstones of our policy," the FO highlighted.

Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts, including the apprehension of Mohammad Sharifullah, who was the "mastermind" of the 2021 Abbey Gate bombing at Kabul airport. The statement further said that the investigations into the Pahalgam incident were "still inconclusive".

"While the issue under consideration pertains to US domestic laws, India has a track record of exploiting such designations to push anti-Pakistan propaganda with a view to divert international attention from its irresponsible and rogue behaviour, including ongoing human rights atrocities, especially in occupied Kashmir," it added.



Leh, prompting the district administration to declare a public holiday in a bid to keep residents indoors and safe. Several areas of the city remained submerged as emergency services struggled to cope with the deluge.

In Chakwal, authorities reported an unprecedented 430mm of rain over a span of just 10 hours, resulting in widespread flooding. The situation forced the district administration to declare an emergency and launch urgent relief operations as roads turned into rivers and rural settlements were cut off.

The relocation of livestock to safer ground and the provision of veterinary care have also been emphasized, alongside directives for proper data collection and post-flood analysis.

The warning came a day after record-breaking rainfall swept across parts of the province. In Rawalpindi, the heaviest downpour of the season triggered flash flooding in Nullah

BUTEMS Staff Association meets Education Minister Rabeela Durrani to discuss PSU allowance and salary parity.

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QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Budget 2025:
A People-Centric Vision or Just
Another Promise?

Editorial:

As the Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, leads a high-level parliamentary committee to prepare the FY2025 budget and Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), the province stands at a critical crossroads.

Promising a shift from the past, Bugti vows this budget will prioritize transparency, merit, and good governance, with a strong focus on public welfare.

But the key question remains—will these promises translate into real change for the people of Balochistan?

Breaking from the Past: A Collective Effort

For the first time in years, the formation of a cross-party parliamentary committee involving leaders from PPP, PML, BAP, ANP, and JI signals a hopeful departure from political victimization and partisan favoritism.

With experienced lawmakers like Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai, and Noor Muhammad Dummer at the table, there is a genuine opportunity to craft a budget that reflects collective interest rather than individual gains.

End of Individual Projects, Focus on Equal Development

Chief Minister Bugti has made it clear: "No room for corruption or nepotism." Only approved, people-centric development projects will be included—not pet schemes, no personal agendas.

This approach must ensure that neglected and far-flung areas like Awaran, Washuk, Sherani, and Dera Bugti receive their fair share. For decades, these regions have remained on the margins of development; just this time the budget acknowledged their right to progress.

Health and Education: More Than Just Buzzwords

The CM's commitment to education and healthcare as priority sectors is commendable—but mere statements are not enough. What Balochistan needs is a real boost in primary and secondary school enrollment, teachers' training, rural health infrastructure, and medicine availability.

If the province is to improve its Human Development Index (HDI), practical steps—not policy platitudes—must lead the way.

A Budget of Trust, Not Just Numbers

Bugti's declaration that this budget is "a roadmap to uplift every resident of Balochistan" is powerful.

But the success of this budget will be judged not by spreadsheets, but by the smiles of students in rural classrooms, the relief of patients in functional clinics, and the roads that connect remote villages to opportunity.

The people of Balochistan are watching closely. This budget must not be another missed opportunity—it must become a blueprint of hope, equity, and real development.

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 commonly known fact that groundwater quality is as important as its quantity. Balochistan is becoming the fast water-scarce province of the country particularly in urban areas including the Quetta sub-district 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 constant the consequence of human activities.

Accordingly, the current analysis of water quality discloses that water in most of the areas of the Quetta is exclusively microbiologically contaminated.

Whereas, other contaminations include, Nitrate, Turbidity, Arsenic, hardness, TDS, and other ions have been analyzed wherein, the Nitrate concentrations have been found higher than the prescribed WHO standards.

Water quality contamination is an extensive phenomenon

Moreover, the change in water quality pattern in Quetta follows largely the pattern of microbiological contaminations. The analysis indicates that water quality contamination is an extensive phenomenon in the drinking water supply system. It is of great concern that the average concentrations of contaminations have been observed mostly in thickly populated areas of the Quetta. The situation follows the growing rate of contaminations over the Quetta whereas the extension in the water supply system has increased in the last two decades and the density of population is also increasing with time.

The report points out that due to lack of proper water supply pipeline designing the cross-contamination is not in control and the flow of pollutants into the main supply line is a major cause of contaminations.

The study further reports that the old age leaking pipes in the main water supply system are also the main reason for cross-contamination in the main supply lines.

The inhabitants of Quetta may be at risk of drinking contaminated water and may suffer from various water-borne diseases. The report also specifies the high rate of Nitrate concentrations in water in some areas like Blue Baby Syndrome diseases have been found higher than the prescribed WHO standards.

The author is serving as an officer in the Balochistan Irrigation Department

Moreover, 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.

Contaminated water in Quetta affecting human health

On the basis of analyzed water quality data the areas of Mariabadd, Shaldara Kasi Road, Pashoonabad, Germalmandi, Sirki Road, Joint Road, Raisani Road, Spini road, Joint Road, Raisani Road, Sariab road DG WAPDA office, Gahi Khan Chowk, Sariab Railway Station where the water Quality is declared unsafe due to high concentration of Coliform and E. coli as such the analyzed values are high than the permissible limits of the WHO.

The drinking water in these areas is found objectionable and unsafe for drinking purposes on the basis of bacteriological contamination. Accordingly, the current analysis of water quality discloses that water in most of the areas of the Quetta is exclusively microbiologically contaminated.

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Ajmal Khan:

Poverty is not a static or fixed phenomenon. It is a multi-dimensional idea that encompasses quality in almost every sphere of life, ranging from calorie intake, life expectancy, living standards, literacy, and access to modern energy services.

This type of poverty is always expressed from an income perspective. Sticking with the non-income dimensions of poverty, such as health, education and living standards, are as important as employment.

The two energy indicators of non-income dimensions (no access to electricity) and cooking fuels (wood, dung and charcoal), constitute poverty.

Goal no. 7 of SDGs contains universal access to modern energy services, increasing energy efficiency, and increasing renewable energy share.

As we know, energy plays a vital role in the development process of a country, but in case of Pakistan, energy poverty is the largest single drain on Pakistan's economy.

When we talk about Balochistan, it is the direct and major victim of energy crisis, and has slowed down the growth of the province.

Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan, having an area of 347,190 km square and a population of 12,344,408 people. The major portion of the population live in rural areas, constituting 72.45%.

Multivariate Aspects of Climate Change in Pakistan

Syed Mansoor Ahmed:

Climate change presents unbearable challenges in the future. According to the World Bank report, Pakistan stands 6th in affect of climate change. The awful and deadly floods of 2010, and 2011, extremely heavy rain in a rainy season, and fluctuation in actual climate pattern is alarming and despairing signs among all the dwellers of the town.

Climate Change and Agriculture in Pakistan

In addition, Pakistan is a semi-arid country. The focal and dependent source of water is from the snow-covered Himalayan and the Karakoram in the Northern Areas: Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and the Sutlej rivers flow through this area. Within the water table, the country's entire agriculture is dependant on water flow from the Indus river.

Glacial flood outburst also poses a serious threat to the country's climate in the Karakoram range. The sole aim was reaching and understanding the possible nodes of surge-type glaciers, which are characterized by unsteady movements and frequent frontal advances of glaciers. As a result, it causes natural hazards by obstructing river channels, forming ice-dammed lakes, and pose threats downstream of the water. After meaningful analysis, it revealed that a surge between 1998 and 2002 generated 6 GLOFs.

Damages by Climate Change:

Meanwhile, rigorous critical exploration of the Attabade Lake of Hunza Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan is the distinctive event to justify the future threats of climate change in the center of

hancing the level of physical comfort and peace of mind. The Book of Genesis states that Cain killed Abel to satiate his vengeance.

Ever since vengeance, confrontation and belligerence have remained more pervasive than cooperation and amiability in human relations.

The perception of life as a cruel game breeds selfishness and consequent animosity between individuals, groups, or states. Instincts of survival and protection are reflexive thus natural for all living organisms including us humans.

War, being one of the forms of human relations, received due attention. However, what distinguishes Homo sapiens from other living entities is the quest for controlling the forces of nature like wind, water, fire, and Sunlight for en-

Energy shortage in Balochistan

Only 36 Percent of Balochistan has access to energy:

Balochistan is facing an acute energy shortage that has stopped the development not only in the economic and agriculture sector, but also in every walk of life. According to a document submitted to the National Assembly of Pakistan, only 36% of Balochistan is electrified, while the remaining 64% of Balochistan still doesn't have access to energy. Due to the scattered population living in rural areas, it is impossible to electrify them. In 2018, the total demand of Balochistan was 1650 MW, but supply was limited to 600 MW, and in 2019 the demand has been raised to 2500 MW.

Energy Projects in CPEC:

Energy is the prominent component of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Almost 70% of the CPEC projects were related to the energy sector, which comprises thermal, hydro, coal and wind. Unfortunately, Balochistan is being left out of these projects. Out of 13 mega projects related to energy, six projects are being located in Punjab, six in Sindh and one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Once again, the energy-starved and downtrodden province has been deprived of its share due to share to fulfill its energy demands. The energy generated by these projects will not give any

relief to the consumers in Balochistan.

The already installed transmission lines are inadequate, and the province does not have the capability and capacity to absorb energy beyond 500 MW. The two transmission lines worth \$4 billion will run from Matiani to Faisalabad and Lahore, respectively. These transmission lines are providing 4000 MW to Punjab. Looking at this picture, the overall situation in rural Balochistan is worse, where 85% of the population lives and some areas in Balochistan are not even linked with the national grid systems. This is an alarming situation where a major portion of the population still doesn't have access to electricity, and it will further deteriorate the growth of the province.

Production in Balochistan:

Balochistan is producing about 2422 MW of electricity using gas-based thermal. Almost all of the electricity generated in the province is being transmitted to other provinces. Electricity has been purchased by QESCO from two autonomous power producers include the Uch power plant and Habibullah Coastal Power plant. The province also receives electricity from Iran and provides it to the areas along the border. The federal government initiative to reduce load-shedding will not positively impact the province because the existing transmission lines are not that much capable of

supplying any load beyond 600 MW. There is not a single 500 kV grid station in the province.

No doubt, it is impossible to provide and extend transmission lines to the far-flung areas because it will cost too much. The electricity demand in rural areas of Balochistan is very low and the houses in rural areas need only lighting for roomed houses built of mud. Furthermore, investors feel hesitant to invest in the province due to lack of infrastructure, revenue generation and security.

Considering all these factors, solar energy remains the best source because Balochistan receives the largest solar radiation in its area. According to a World Bank assessment, Balochistan receives the highest average sunlight in the world, which makes it rich in solar energy. Keeping in view these factors and in spite of extending the transmission lines to the far-flung and remote areas, the government should provide a solar panel to each house that is more economical and cost efficient. It will empower the socio-economic conditions of the population living in rural areas.

The Wind Corridor of Balochistan and Government's efforts:

Besides solar energy, the wind energy is another essential source and Balochistan has been blessed with a high rate of wind speeds. The Pakistan Meteorological

Department (PMD), in their shared data, suggested that the wind speed in the coastal area of the province is enough to generate electricity. In this line, Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET) has electrified 1600 villages along the coastal side of Sindh and Balochistan. A study suggested that the coastal belt of Pakistan can produce 50,000 MW through wind resources. To minimize the cost of these projects, the government should encourage local manufacturers of wind turbines. In this regard, to overcome the energy poverty in Balochistan, the federal government can play a vital role in alleviating energy poverty by using renewable energy resources in electrifying the rural areas of Balochistan keeping in view the solar radiation and wind speed; there is a huge potential of renewable energy in the province. They should not electrify the far-flung areas with conventional grid-based methods because it will maximize their cost as the traditional modes of energy are expensive, and in the long run, it cannot meet the energy demand for sustainable development. The government should provide the due share in CPEC related energy projects to the province. Suppose of issues related to energy poverty are not taken seriously, the dream of achieving SDGs will never be achieved, and the already poverty-stricken province will observe more difficulties in the coming days.

By the way, Balochistan is producing about 2422 MW of electricity using gas-based thermal. Almost all of the electricity generated in the province is being transmitted to other provinces. Electricity has been purchased by QESCO from two autonomous power producers include the Uch power plant and Habibullah Coastal Power plant. The province also receives electricity from Iran and provides it to the areas along the border. The federal government initiative to reduce load-shedding will not positively impact the province because the existing transmission lines are not that much capable of

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By the way, Balochistan is producing about 2422 MW of electricity using gas-based thermal. Almost all of the electricity generated in the province is being transmitted to other provinces. Electricity has been purchased by QESCO from two autonomous power producers include the Uch power plant and Habibullah Coastal Power plant. The province also receives electricity from Iran and provides it to the areas along the border. The federal government initiative to reduce load-shedding will not positively impact the province because the existing transmission lines are not that much capable of

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Considering

Kashmiris to mark accession to Pakistan Day tomorrow

ISLAMABAD (INP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and the world over will observe the Accession to Pakistan Day tomorrow (Saturday) with a renewed pledge to continue the plebiscite struggle for Jammu and Kashmir and its complete merger with Pakistan.

It was on 19th July 1947 that genuine representatives of the Kashmiris unanimously passed resolution of Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan during a meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the residence of

Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Abi Qazir area of Srinagar. Hurriyat Leader APHC Abdul Hameed Lone said.

The historic resolution called for the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan in view of its existing sentiments, religious, geographical, cultural and economic proximity to Pakistan and aspirations of millions of the Jammu and Kashmir people.

The development had come almost a year before the creation of two sovereign states of Pakistan and India under the Partition Plan of the British Indian colony.

As per the understanding behind the Partition Plan, the Princely States were free to accede to either of the two newly established countries. The decision of 19th July 1947 was a testimony to the fact that the people of Kashmir had linked their future with Pakistan. They took the decision of joining Pakistan to protect their political, religious, social, cultural and economic rights, as they were well aware of their fate under Hindus who had deep-seated animosity for Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The dream of merging with Pakistan, noted in the July 19, 1947 resolution, remains alive and strong among Kashmiris and it is in 1947 that Kashmiris upheld their unmatched resilience.

The 1947 accession resolution is not just history; it's the foundation of Kashmiris' resistance and continues to inspire Kashmiris' fight for freedom and rightful alignment with Pakistan. This Accession to Pakistan spirit fuels the Kashmiris' legitimate quest for the right to self-determination.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik meet with Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Defence, Mr. Zeb Jaffer, along with several emerging green startups working on clean energy and carbon credit.

Rising Indus River cuts off villages in Sehwan; emergency declared

SEHWAN (INP): The water level in the Indus River continues to rise steadily, reaching the katcha (riverine) areas of Sehwan and triggering a low-level flood emergency.

According to irrigation officials, three union councils in Sehwan tehsil have now been declared under low-level flood conditions following the surge in river water.

Floodwaters have inundated the katcha areas, cutting off more than 30 villages from the nearby cities of Sehwan and Bhan Syedabad. Villages including Bilawalpur, Durecero, Bhundani, Nayo Wahan, Mahi Otho, and Mahi Sehta are now completely surrounded by water. In response to the worsening situation, local villagers have arranged private boats for transport, maintaining a link with urban centres as all road access has been severed. The residents of the flood-hit areas have urged the district administration to provide government-operated boats to ease movement and support emergency needs.

The Irrigation Department has warned that the water level is expected to rise further in the coming days. In anticipation, an emergency has been declared on the LS protective bund, and continuous monitoring of the embankments has begun.

Meanwhile, the flood control room has reported that the Indus River at Guddu Barrage is currently experiencing a low-level flood. Encouragingly, water levels are now rapidly declining.

A 50-foot-wide breach in the Pat Feeder Canal in Balochistan's Sohbatpur district has submerged dozens of villages, as monsoon-triggered flooding continues to wreak havoc in the region.

According to the details, the breach occurred near Jung Mori in

the tehsil of Mulguzar during the ongoing spell of heavy monsoon rains. As the canal gave way, water rushed out at high speed, inundating a wide area and leaving many villages underwater.

Sources said residents were struggling to contain the breach on their own. Despite the critical situation, no major relief operation has yet been initiated by the Balochistan authorities.

Flooded villages have reported extensive damage to both crops and homes. Affected residents are urging the government to provide emergency assistance and to take swift action to seal the breach.

So far, the recent rains have damaged 58 houses across Balochistan, out of which 11 homes have been destroyed, while 47 have been partially affected. Additionally, four government properties have been damaged, including three revenue

offices and one education department building. According to data released by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), the monsoon season has so far claimed 16 lives in Balochistan, including seven children and four women. Eight others, including five men, have been injured.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has rescued hundreds of citizens trapped by floodwaters after heavy rain-fall struck the Potohar region yesterday, according to Director General PDMA, Irfan Ali Kathia.

Extraordinary rainfall in Chakwal, Jhelum, and Rawalpindi prompted the declaration of a rain emergency. District administrations, in coordination with the Pakistan Armed Forces, swiftly launched rescue operations across the affected areas.

More than 1,000 people were evacuated to safer locations in the Potohar region.

Chinese firms exploring agriculture chain cooperation with Pakistan

BEIJING (INP): Chinese agribusiness companies are looking to partner with Pakistan to help tackle key agricultural challenges in the South Asian country, offering solutions for water scarcity and the rehabilitation of saline land.

At the ongoing third China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE), Chinese firms presented technologies they believe are well-suited for Pakistan's environment and could provide a boost to local farmers and the national food supply chain.

China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. A company named Xiaoma IoT is introducing smart agriculture solutions aimed at conserving water and

fertiliser, and boosting productivity.

The company has secured its first Pakistani client earlier this year with a \$50,000 order for equipment like digital valves and integrated water-fertiliser systems, a company representative told CEN in an interview.

This technology allows farmers to manage irrigation and fertilisation through a smart platform that monitors soil conditions like moisture and nutrient levels in real-time.

By delivering what the crop needs, the system helps conserve water and fertilisers.

The firm, which develops its own hardware and software, stated that it has received further

business inquiries from other potential partners in Pakistan.

Another company, Guiwugu, is proposing an innovative ecological model to bring saline and alkaline land - a common problem in many of Pakistan's agricultural belts - back into production.

The method uses crayfish to naturally treat the soil. Crayfish live off surface water and saline, gradually reducing salinity.

Afterwards, the rehabilitated land can be used to grow rice, with the crayfish and rice cultivated together in a symbiotic system.

Crayfish act as a natural form of pest control and their waste fertilises the rice fields,

which can improve the quality of the rice harvest without reducing the yield, Guiwugu founder Ni Lihui told CEN.

According to a Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report, Pakistan lost 6.67 million hectares out of its 22-million-hectare agricultural land area to salinity, or 30% of the total farmland.

This technology is already in use in North-east China and is being tested in Xinjiang, a region with a climate that shares similarities with parts of Pakistan.

The technology can be tried in Pakistan's arid zones, he stated, noting that Pakistan's agricultural zones are suitable for this type of farming.



RAWALPINDI: Activates of Jammat-e-Islami hold protest against price hike.



ISLAMABAD: Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Saddam Khalifa Hafar, called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, at Naval Headquarters.

IOJK Congress to launch 'Chalo Delhi' campaign with statehood restoration

JAMMU (INP): The Indian National Congress chapter in occupied Jammu and Kashmir has announced a series of protests, including the 'Chalo Delhi' campaign, and has plans to 'symbolically gherna' Parliament as part of its intensified push for statehood restoration.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the party claimed that it was impossible to restore Jammu and Kashmir's 'statehood without its intervention, which has the support of 233 INDIA bloc members. President of the Indian National Congress chapter in occupied Jammu and Kashmir Tariq Hameed Karra talking to

reporters in Jammu said, 'The Jammu and Kashmir Congress has decided that it will hold a protest in Kashmir valley on July 19 and in Jammu on July 20 so that message on statehood reaches the authorities. After that, we have the 'Chalo Delhi Chalo' campaign on July 21.'

He said under the 'Delhi Chalo' campaign, workers from every block and district of the territory will leave for Delhi on July 21 under the leadership of the Congress. Once in the Indian capital, they and the INDIA bloc leaders would raise the issue.

'Our effort will be to hold protests in front of Sabha and 50 in the Parliament and gharaio it

symbolically. The goal is to raise our voice in Delhi so that it reaches all members of Parliament, among whom 233 are members of the INDIA bloc supporting our cause. This is a significant step,' Karra said.

The former minister said the campaign would stretch from Kashmir to Delhi. 'Alongside 233 INDIA bloc MPs, we will raise our voice in Parliament and on the streets. This marks the beginning of a significant movement from the Congress party.'

Underlining that the Congress has 100 members in the Lok Sabha and 50 in the Rajya Sabha, Karra said,

'It has the full backing of its allies. The letter sent by Rahul Gandhi and (Malikarjun) Kharge represents the collective strength of 233 members of the INDIA bloc. It is a significant voice in Parliament, and if anyone acknowledges that, it is a welcome step.'

On whether Congress plans to approach the Supreme Court on the issue, he said 'We had earlier clarified this point: when the National Conference brought a bill on the issue in the Assembly, we said that since the Supreme Court has deemed the government's decision legal, for us, the achievable goal now is the restoration of statehood.'

China, Pakistan witnessing emergence of a tighter financial chain: Says top banker

BEIJING (INP): The most critical area of financial cooperation under CPEC moving forward must be the development of robust cross-border financing mechanisms, including RMB-PKR settlement frameworks, syndicated lending structures, and project-specific risk mitigation tools such as guarantees and insurance, said a top Pakistani banker.

During the 3rd China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) in Beijing, the Chief Representative, National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) Beijing Office, Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, told in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net.

It is learned that since its establishment in 1981, the NBP Beijing Office has provided localized financial services to various Chinese companies investing in Pakistan, especially in key sectors like infrastructure, energy, and telecom under CPEC.

Especially in Gwadar Port, we've supported banking arrangements for port operations, freezezone development, and logistics projects, ensuring smooth financial coordination for Chinese enterprises,' the Chief Representative emphasized.

He added that Chinese companies expanding into Pakistan also face challenges related to regulatory compliance, banking procedures, tax settlement, and local operational risks.

Differences in legal frameworks, approval timelines, and repatriation of funds can also pose hurdles. 'Thus, to address these issues, localised financial support, advisory services, and close coordination with regulatory bodies are essential.'

We assist them by providing on-ground guidance, facilitating trade financing transactions, and helping navigate legal and compliance matters to ensure business continuity and confidence.'

'Through years of efforts, we are actively working to support cross-border e-commerce between China and Pakistan, facilitating cooperation in digital payment solutions, trade finance, and regulatory alignment,' Mr Shariq told

from easier market access and improved regulatory transparency to the promotion of cross-border payment system and RMB internationalization. These measures have not only enhanced the operating environment for foreign financial institutions but also created new pathways for cooperation, especially under the CPEC.'

As for the supply Chain Expo, Mr. Shariq introduced his in-depth insights into the Expo. He emphasized that with deeper integration in the financial sector, local cases such as RMB settlement, digital wallets, and online escrow services.'

For decades, China's series of measures to continue to expand opening up in the financial sector have also had a significant impact on NBP's business in China.

The Chief Representative believes that China's continued financial opening-up reflects a clear commitment to deeper global integration and high-standard development. 'Since NBP established its presence in China, we've witnessed significant policy advancements

from easier market access and improved regulatory transparency to the promotion of cross-border payment system and RMB internationalization. These measures have not only enhanced the operating environment for foreign financial institutions but also created new pathways for cooperation, especially under the CPEC.'

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Sherry stresses 'Modern Met systems' essential amid climate threats

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior Vice President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman Friday called for stronger disaster readiness and the modernization of the country's weather forecasting systems.

Noting that the United Nations considers a comprehensive early warning mechanism a basic entitlement of every sovereign state, she stressed the urgency of the weather department.

In an exclusive conversation with a local news channel, Senator Sherry Rehman emphasized the urgent need to modernize Pakistan's meteorological infrastructure.

Senator Rehman noted that Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to extreme weather events. Floods, heatwaves, droughts and cyclones yet still lack a reliable, real-time forecasting network that can prevent disasters and save

lives. She further added that according to the United Nations, access to an effective early warning system is a basic right of every country and should be treated as a core national security and development priority.

Sherry further expressed her admiration for the need for up-grading and enhancing the country's weather department.

Responding to a query, she said that due to climate change, unpredictable weather patterns are expected in the coming years and the intensity of weather events is likely to increase further.

She also explained that, according to department reports, more rain is expected in the next 24 hours. However, she emphasized the need for greater preparedness, even suggesting the use of mosques to alert the public.

TENDER NOTICE

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ABENAVJOURAL, SCIENCE QUETTA invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items: TSE-25070710942 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA-GOB. Tender Fee Rs. 1000 PKR

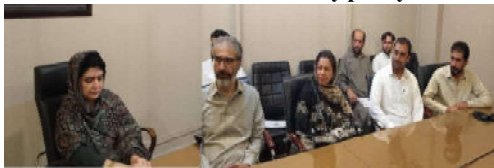
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1	Industrial Cleaning Services (Total Items) Count: 41 200,000 PKR	

Procurements shall be made under the Baluchistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: A designation of Similar Nature and Complexity Works PKR. 2 Million each in Previous 3 Years Accumulated Turnover of at least PKR 10 Million in 2 Subsequent Previous Years. Procurement System: Pay-Per-Click (PPC) Registration Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan previous 3 (Three) years of Government Official experience with verified completion certificate BPPRA Registration Certificate Underwriting by the firm that due to non-availability of funds or any other circumstances the payment is delayed the firm shall pay the salaries to the workmen/employees at least for three (3) months after Report of the Financial Year 2023-24 from Chartered Accountants registered firm. The service provider shall submit their work plan, duty schedule and the number of service workers for each shift that ensures the effective maintenance of hygiene in the institution. Underwriting that the firm will abide by all terms and conditions of the tender. The firm must have Corporate Office in Quetta City (50 Certificate Quality Control/Facility Management) Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of amount 200,000 PKR specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically (tender) by 04 August, 2025/08:11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:45 AM under PPS System Address: Sherry Road, Quetta. Phone: 081213092 Email: proc@bppra.gov.pk Fax: 081213094

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BALUCHISTAN INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY ABENAVJOURAL, SCIENCE QUETTA

PRO No. 187/19-T-2025
CP number: 081213092

BUTEMS Staff Association meets Education Minister Raheela Durrani to discuss PSU allowance and salary parity.



Quetta

(Special Correspondent):

A high-level delegation of the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS) Staff Association (BSA) met with the Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Raheela Durrani, today to discuss key issues faced by university employees, including the recent concerns over the PSU allowance.

The delegation, which included Mr. Sohail Anwar, Dr. Saima, Dr. Hassam Shah, Sheikh Meer Ahmed, and Najebeullah, expressed appreciation for the

minister's continued efforts in resolving issues faced by universities in Balochistan.

They also thanked her for increasing the higher education budget in the recent provincial budget from Rs. 5 billion to Rs. 8 billion.

During the meeting, the BSA delegation gave a detailed briefing on the PSU allowance and the recently introduced uniform pay policy. They emphasized the need for inclusion of house requisition—already approved by all relevant forums such as F&P, Syndicate, and Senate—into the uniform pay policy.

Additionally, the delegation requested that BUTEMS employees' salaries be brought at par with those of the University of Balochistan staff, in order to address long-standing grievances and reduce growing dissatisfaction among employees.

In response, Education Minister Raheela Durrani praised the dedication and performance of BUTEMS faculty and staff and acknowledged their significant role in the province's development. She assured the delegation that she would continue her efforts to resolve these pressing issues.



LONDON: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, presents a souvenir to member of the Pakistan British Business Council during a meeting. The meeting focused on the Council's initiatives for trade matching, SME growth, women entrepreneurship, and strengthening bilateral business cooperation.

NADRA citizen facilitation centre opened in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has launched a new Citizen Facilitation Centre in Islamabad. The centre has been launched in the G-11 area of Islamabad to facilitate citizens with seamless services. This initiative aims to

provide identity-related services under one roof, decreasing the need for frequent visits and long queues. The recently inaugurated

Citizen Facilitation Centre Islamabad proposes a comprehensive range of services, including: Issuance of Computerised National

Identity Cards (CNICs), Child Registration Certificates (B-Forms), Family Registration Certificates (FRCs), Marital status updates

Cancellation of identity documents due to death.

This NADRA registration centre is part of an extensive effort to decentralise services and make them more available to the residents

of Islamabad and neighbouring areas. Earlier, NADRA had enhanced services to union councils in areas like Saidpur, Sihala, and Model.

Town, but this centralised facility marks a significant upgrade in convenience and efficiency. The Citizen Facilitation Centre Islamabad is expected to serve thousands of citizens weekly, offering faster processing times and a more streamlined experience. With this move, NADRA continues its mission to modernise identity services and bring them closer to the people.

Pakistani individuals receive a vital document from

the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) called the Family Registration Certificate (FRC) after confirmation of their information.

According to the regulations, candidates are now required to present an assurance attesting to the veracity of the data they submitted. The FRC is available to the public based only on NADRA's records.

Three family types—Alpha (by birth), Beta (by marriage), and Gamma (by adoption)—are defined by the new regulations. Any unlisted family members must be registered by the individual. Inaccurate entries can be eliminated and corrections made using the NADRA offices or mobile app. The new FRC will eliminate uncertainty by including complete information on males who had many marriages, unlike the old system.

19th July 1947 resolution marks Kashmiris' unconditional love for Pakistan: APHC-AJK

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter has said the 19th July resolution marks the Kashmiris' unconditional love for Pakistan when on this day in 1947 they decided to link their future with Pakistan.

APHC-AJK chapter convenor Ghulam Muhammad Safi in a statement on the eve of Accession to Pakistan Day said the Resolution of Accession to Pakistan unanimously passed by the Kashmiri leadership in Srinagar on July 19, 1947, is not only a milestone in history but also remains the main reference for the Kashmiri people's struggle for freedom and their unwavering relationship with Pakistan.

He said that the resolution

was a reflection of the collective consciousness, desire and passion of Kashmiri Muslims, under which they took the historic decision to associate their future with Pakistan on the basis of their political, cultural and religious affiliation.

Other APHC-AJK leaders, including Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, Altaf Hussain Wani, Syed Faiz Naqashbandi and Shameem Shari, in their separate statements in Islamabad said the 19th July 1947 Resolution, which called for the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan, holds even greater relevance today in light of current political developments in India.

They described the 19th July Resolution as a historic declaration that showcased the Kashmiri leadership's resolve

to protect the identity, culture and political future of the majority population of the territory.

"The resolution represented the will of nearly 85 per cent of the state's population and affirmed their inherent right to self-determination," they stated.

Despite decades of brutal repression, Kashmiris remain undefeated in their pursuit of freedom from Indian occupation and will continue to draw strength from this foundational political resolution of 19 July 1947.

They said that the day had also assumed great significance in the history of Kashmir because the historic resolution was adopted a month before the creation of Pakistan and India under the Partition Plan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mobsin Naqvi chairing a high-level meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on encouraging usage of electric vehicles in country.

Maryam Nawaz directs officials to remain fully prepared to protect lives, property during monsoon

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz visited the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) head office and directed all concerned agencies to remain fully prepared to protect lives and property as monsoon season intensifies across the province.

During her visit, CM Maryam Nawaz received a detailed briefing on the rain and flood situation currently affecting various parts of Punjab.

The PDMA DG, Irfan Ali Kathia, outlined the proactive safety measures in place, including the deployment of rescue equipment and the status of early warning systems. He also updated the Chief Minister

on the state of flood preparedness and desilting operations being carried out in water channels and vulnerable areas. The chief minister inspected the early warning system and was informed about the evacuation timelines in case of rising water levels. Officials highlighted the importance of swift response mechanisms and community-level coordination to minimise risk during emergencies.

Maryam Nawaz was told that so far, district administrations across Punjab have successfully rescued 1,063 individuals trapped by floodwaters, with an average evacuation time of just 23 minutes. In Rawalpindi district, six

people were rescued via helicopter, while in Chakwal, 27 individuals were airlifted and another 182 saved by Rescue 1122. In Jhelum, 160 people were evacuated by helicopter, with Rescue 1122 saving 174 and the Pakistan Army rescuing an additional 64 people.

The Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of PDMA, Rescue 1122, district administrations, and the Pakistan Army, reiterating that every life matters and that timely, coordinated efforts are essential in tackling natural disasters. She emphasised the need for continued vigilance as Punjab braces for further rain and potential flooding in the days ahead.

Rift within PTI in KP over Senate election tickets distribution

PESHAWAR (INP): Deep divisions have emerged within the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the controversial distribution of Senate election tickets, with party organizers threatening protests if their demands are not met.

PTI's organizational office-bearers publicly demanded that Irfan Saleem be awarded the Senate ticket from Peshawar. At a press conference, they warned that failure to fulfill this demand would result in demonstrations outside the Provincial Assembly, the Chief Minister's House, and the residences of sitting MPAs.

Labeling the decision to deny Irfan Saleem a ticket as a betrayal of party ideology, the PTI workers said the move had angered long-time party loyalists. "Irfan Saleem will remain in the race — his nomination

will not be withdrawn under any circumstances," they declared.

The office-bearers further stated, "We hope the party leadership will accept our legitimate demands. If not, we will stage a sit-in outside the Chief Minister's House, enter the Red Zone, and surround the assembly building on the day of the Senate election. No MPA will be allowed to enter the house to cast their vote. We will also protest outside the homes of those who attempt to vote."

Accusing the leadership of sidelining genuine party workers, they said, "This is an ideological battle that was initiated by PTI founder Imran Khan — and we intend to finish it."

They strongly criticized the candidate selection process, alleging that tickets were being granted not to dedicated party members, but to wealthy

individuals — referred to as "ATMs." "The party and its workers are being betrayed by rewarding these financial backers," they said.

They reaffirmed that Irfan Saleem would not withdraw from the race and denounced what they described as efforts to strip public representatives of their right to contest.

"Those currently seated in power have betrayed the grassroots workers," they charged. "If Irfan is denied the ticket, we will launch a movement after the Senate elections."

The group claimed that 13 to 15 MPAs have pledged support for Irfan Saleem and alleged that attempts have been made to have certain candidates elected unopposed. "Irfan Saleem is Imran Khan's nominee — there is absolutely no question of him stepping down," they insisted.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry chairing a meeting to review the progress on the proposed ferry service.

Sindh CM emphasises his govt's dedication to higher education, digital empowerment

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has emphasised his government's dedication to higher education, digital empowerment, and youth development through pioneering initiatives such as the People's Information Technology Programme (PITP).

Addressing inauguration ceremony of newly constructed buildings at NED University and distribution of Chromebooks for top performers of Peoples Information Technology Program (PITP), he Shah proudly announced that Sindh has allocated a record Rs. 42 billion for public sector universities in the current financial year, the highest among all provinces, to support operational needs, research, infrastructure, and innovation.

The event, held at NED University, was attended by Chairman of the Sindh Higher Education Commission Profes-

sor Dr. Tarique Rafi, Chairman CIEC Dr. Sarosh Lodi, Chairman of IT Mr. Noor Ahmed Samoo, Secretary U&B Abbas Baloch, and Vice Chancellors from Mehran University, Sukkur IBA, and NED, alongside senior faculty, PITP teams, and students.

He also inaugurated two major infrastructure projects at NED University: the new building for the Department of Food Engineering, equipped with advanced laboratories for Rs. 96.48 million, and the International Boys Hostel, which accommodates 112 students and was funded with Rs. 67.11 million. Additionally, a dedicated Girls Hostel block for 52 female students, funded with Rs. 98.52 million, was recognised as a step towards promoting gender inclusivity in engineering and technical education.

Murad Shah appreciated the notable female partici-

tion: 40% at Sukkur IBA, 36% at NED, and 33.6 per cent at MUET, with 62 per cent of MUET students coming from rural backgrounds, underscoring the programme's inclusive approach.

The Chief Minister distributed 300 Google Chromebooks/laptops to the top-performing PITP students through a transparent and merit-based selection criterion. He stressed that the selection process was completely merit-based, transparent, and tailored for each institution.

He praised the leadership of Vice Chancellors Dr. Sarosh Lodi, Dr. Muhammad Tufail, Dr. Tanha Hussain Ali, and Dr. Asif Shaikh, along with PITP focal persons and Tech Valley's CEOs, Umer Farooq. He also recognised the tireless efforts of the Science and IT Department under Noor Ahmed Samoo, Dr. Shahzeb Malik, and Mr. Athar Baloch.