

QUETTA VOICE

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Reko Diq Copper-Gold Project: A Chance to Empower Local Talent

Syed Ali Shah Analysis: The Reko Diq copper and gold project in Balochistan is more than just a mining venture—it is a national opportunity to empower local communities, boost Pakistan's economy, and ensure long-term regional development.

Company officials recently briefed the media in Quetta and shared that production at Reko Diq is expected to begin by 2028. In the lead-up to this, around 7,500–8,000 temporary jobs will be created during the construction phase, while 4,500 permanent positions will be maintained once the mine becomes operational. In total, over 25,000 indirect job opportunities are expected to arise through supply chains, vendors, and local contractors.

While these numbers are promising, the true success of Reko Diq depends on how deeply local talent is integrated into the project. Officials highlighted a positive initiative—Balochistan-based engineers recently received international mining training through Barrick Gold's development program. These trained professionals have now returned to serve



the project.

This initiative must be expanded. There is a vast pool of youth in Reko Diq, Chagai, and surrounding districts with potential. With the right technical education and training—both locally and abroad—this local workforce can be trans-

formed into the backbone of Pakistan's mineral economy. The government and company must jointly ensure that investment in education, healthcare, and connectivity becomes part of the project's long-term goals. Training centers, scholarships, and techni-

cal institutes should be prioritized in Balochistan.

Reko Diq is a national asset, but its real value will only be realized when the people of Balochistan are treated as equal stakeholders—not just as workers, but as partners in progress.

Rs100 Billion Allocated to NHA for Dualisation of Quetta Karachi Highway under Petroleum Levy

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways Authority (NHA) is set to receive Rs100 billion from the petroleum development levy to fund major road infrastructure projects in Balochistan, a move aimed at improving travel safety and boosting regional connectivity.

While the funding is a welcome development, it still falls short of what the NHA had hoped for.

The authority had requested Rs160.2 billion for the current financial year under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) but was allocated Rs100 billion by the federal government.

Where the Funds Will Go:

Rs34 billion has been allocated for dualising the 330 km Khuzdar-Kuchlak section of the N-25 highway.

Rs33 billion will fund the dualisation and rehabilitation of the 273 km Karachi-Quetta-Chaman road—a key but hazardous route for commuters and trade.

Another Rs33 billion is des-

igned for upgrading the 187 km Kararo-Wadh and Kuchlak-Chaman sections.

These projects are part of broader efforts to upgrade Balochistan's highway network, particularly the N-25, which connects Karachi to Chaman and has long been known as one of the country's most dangerous roads due to its poor condition and heavy traffic.

The NHA is currently man-

aging over Rs2.200 billion worth of infrastructure projects across Pakistan. In its PSDP proposal for FY2025-26, the authority submitted 161 project requests, out of which only 105 were approved, receiving a total of Rs227 billion in funding.

To cope with financial shortfalls, the NHA has been ramping up its own revenue. In the current fiscal year, it generated Rs64.8 billion from tolls and other sources,

doubling its collections from Rs32 billion in FY2023-24.

Government Steps In

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed that savings from declining global oil prices be redirected to critical infrastructure in Balochistan, including the long-delayed N-25 highway reconstruction and Phase II of the Kachhi Canal project.

The N-25 upgrade—originally greenlit in FY2022-23 as part of a Rs300 billion project—had stalled due to funding gaps. With this latest financial push, work on the so-called "deadly highway" is expected to pick up pace, offering hope to thousands of commuters and traders who depend on this lifeline daily.

Looking Ahead

While the full funding request wasn't met, the Rs100 billion allocation marks a major step toward addressing long-standing infrastructure gaps in Balochistan. If completed on time, these highway projects could transform the region's economic landscape and significantly improve road safety.



PA speaker tosses disqualification bid of 26 MPAs into judicial arena

NEWS DESK: Speaker Punjab Assembly, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, has declared inadmissible the applications submitted by treasury lawmakers seeking the disqualification of 26 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPAs suspended for alleged abusive and violent conduct. Instead, he advised the petitioners to obtain a declaration from a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction before approaching the Speaker again.

Speaker Khan made the decision under Rule 210(3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, 1997. The 26 PTI lawmakers had been suspended following their disruption of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's speech on 27 June.

In his detailed ruling, the Speaker stated, "Though serious legal and constitutional violations, including breach of constitutional oath, have been alleged by the applicants, these violations first need to be established in a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction before I could decide whether a question of qualification has arisen in terms of Article 63(2) of the Constitution and refer the question to the Election Commission of Pakistan."

He further added, "The people are the source of all power, and through their vote, they confer trust—not to be undone without the gravest reasons. To disqualify a representative is not merely to silence a voice—it is to disenfranchise people. For an elected House is not only a chamber of laws; it is the echo of the people's will. That voice must not be silenced." Speaker Khan rejected the reliance placed by ap-

peals on precedents such as the Panama Papers case and related jurisprudence under Articles 199 and 184(3), calling such comparisons "not maintainable for constitutional and democratic reasons." He warned that entertaining such petitions would erode the freedom of speech within the House and effectively nullify the opposition's role. Citing Article 19, he emphasised that robust—even abrasive—debate is protected, "subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law," which are outlined in assembly rules, not by

Assembly must remain a forum where dissent is voiced, not extinguished. The electorate is best served when the House disciplines disorder internally while preserving the electorate's chosen representation.

Highlighting the need for improved legislative performance, the Speaker noted that many members lack awareness of assembly rules, legislative procedures, and the effective use of standing committees. He stressed the importance of targeted training to ensure the Assembly upholds parliamentary supremacy and serves the public interest.

"As elected representatives, we must legislate responsibly, put an end to political victimisation, and work together to uphold the supremacy of the people's Assembly and protect our democracy," he said. Calling for inter-party dialogue in the spirit of the Charter of Democracy, he said, "Political parties are the true guardians of democracy."

There should be meaningful dialogue among all parties on the effective functioning of the Assembly to ensure that it serves the interests of the people and remains a forum for genuine debate and cooperation."



plicants on precedents such as the Panama Papers case and related jurisprudence under Articles 199

threats of permanent disqualification. He said, "Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law. The

BUMHS Delays BS Allied Health Sciences Merit List Amid Interviews Done in May

News Desk

QUETTA: The Balochistan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS) has failed to publish the much-anticipated BS Allied Health Sciences merit list, creating widespread confusion and distress among applicants who completed interviews weeks ago. Buy vitamins and supplements

According to the academic schedule, the BS Allied Health Sciences merit list was expected to be released earlier this month. However, as of now, no official announcement or explanation has been provided by BUMHS regarding the delay, leaving students and their families in a state of uncertainty.

they describe as poor administrative handling.

"This delay is affecting our academic future. We deserve clear communication and timely updates," said one frustrated applicant.

Parents have also expressed concern over the prolonged wait, citing stress and the inability to make informed decisions about their children's education. The situation has sparked criticism of BUMHS's admission procedures, with education observers urging the institution to improve its communication and follow published timelines.

The delay in publishing the merit list for the BS Allied Health Sciences program—one of the university's most



Students, who had undergone rigorous interview sessions as part of the admission process, are now voicing their concerns about the university's silence and lack of transparency.

Many have taken to social media to demand immediate updates and call out whomever is responsible.

sought-after degrees—has further raised doubts about the management of the admission process at BUMHS. Buy vitamins and supplements

As of this report, no official date has been announced for the release of the merit list, and students continue to demand answers.

9 terrorists killed, 3 officers injured in joint operation in KP's Hangu: police

NEWS DESK: Nine terrorists were killed and three security officers injured in an exchange of fire during an operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu district, police said on Saturday.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities over the past year, especially in KP and Balochistan, after the proscribed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022.

Earlier, a statement by KP Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zulfiqar Hameed said that security forces and police carried out a joint operation in Hangu's Zargari Shinawari area. "Nine terrorists killed in Hangu operation," District Police Officer (DPO) Khalid Khan is undergoing treatment at the Kohat Combined Military Hospital, a statement issued later by Kohat Regional Police Officer DIG Abbas Majed read.

"The operation is continuing successfully and full action is being taken against the terrorists," the statement added.

It further read that DPO Khan was out of danger now.

Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi telephoned the Hangu DPO and appreciated his bravery and determination.

"The interior minister said that the nation will never forget the sacrifices of its brave sons and is determined to achieve final victory in the war against terrorism," the statement added. "During the operation, there was a heavy ex-

change of fire between the terrorists and the law enforcement personnel," the earlier statement by the KP IGP read.

"Security forces fought bravely and killed five terrorists. However, Hangu DPO Khalid Khan, the Doaba station house officer (SHO), and an officer of the security forces were injured in the exchange of fire," it added.

The statement said that DPO Khan "was hit by three bullets." IG Hameed spoke to the injured officers and enquired about their well-being, according to the police statement. "Law enforcement agencies are determined to continue their fight against terrorism," the statement added.

Pakistan ranked second in the Global Terrorism Index 2025, with the number of deaths in terrorist attacks rising by 45 per cent over the past year to 1,081. KP has seen an increasing trend of terrorism-related incidents.

On June 21, KP police killed a terrorist and injured two others belonging to the TTP group in Dera Ismail Khan as they attempted to attack the police.

In May, two policemen were martyred and two were injured in a suicide attack in Peshawar, while in a separate incident, two cops lost their lives as a result of an attack on a police checkpoint in Bannu. Faced with increasing attacks by militants, security forces have also intensified counterterrorism operations in KP and Balochistan.



Quetta-Karachi Highway Upgrade: Timely Action and Strong Leadership Key to Success

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AJK President, PM Pay tribute to Kashmiris on Accession Day

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PTI to take strict disciplinary action against dissenting party members over upcoming Senate elections in KP

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EDITORIAL VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Quetta-Karachi Highway Upgrade: Timely Action and Strong Leadership Key to Success

Editorial:

The federal government's recent announcement to upgrade the Quetta-Karachi (N-25) Highway to motorway standards marks a significant development for Balochistan.

Long known for its hazardous conditions, this vital route has long demanded urgent attention to improve safety and efficiency.

Yet, while the decision is a welcome step, it is crucial that the government now prioritizes a clear and realistic timeline for the project's execution.

Past experiences in Balochistan show that many major infrastructure projects have either faced indefinite delays or remained incomplete.

Providing specific deadlines and milestones will not only enhance transparency but also rebuild public trust and ensure accountability.

Credit must also be given to Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, whose consistent advocacy at the federal level has played a vital role in moving this long-standing demand forward.

His engagement with national authorities reflects a results-driven leadership style, focused on securing tangible benefits for the province.

Importantly, the government's decision to redirect funds saved from declining global oil prices towards this highway upgrade demonstrates fiscal prudence and a commitment to public welfare.

Using these resources for critical infrastructure like the Quetta-Karachi Highway is a strategic move that aligns national savings with regional needs.

In summary, upgrading the Quetta-Karachi Highway is a transformative initiative—but one that demands a clear roadmap and transparent execution.

With strong leadership and timely action, this project could finally bring long-awaited progress to Balochistan's infrastructure landscape.

Heatwave Threatens Lives and Crops in Balochistan

By Ghaliq Nehad:

As temperatures soar across Pakistan, several districts of Balochistan are bracing for an intense heatwave.

According to the Balochistan Meteorological Department, Sibi is expected to record temperatures as high as 47°C in the coming days. Turbat may reach 46°C, Lasbela 44°C, Nokundi 43°C, Dabandin 41°C, and Quetta could experience highs of up to 35°C.

The Met Office has issued heatwave alerts for Sibi, Kachi, Kohatpur, Lehri, Naseerabad, Jhal Magi, Turbat, Lasbela, Washuk, Kharan, and Chaghi, warning of dry and extreme weather conditions.

The heat is not only endangering human

health but also threatening agricultural productivity. Khalid Hussain Bhat, Chairman of the Farmers' Union, emphasized that extreme heat severely impacts seed survival and crop growth.

He noted that wheat yields, which traditionally ranged from 50-60 maunds per acre, have dropped significantly to 20-25 maunds due to milder winters and erratic climate patterns.

Bhat also highlighted the critical situation in canal-fed farming areas where declining water availability has exacerbated the risks. He urged the government to introduce heat-resistant crop varieties to prevent billions in agricultural losses and potential food shortages.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mahmood Ahmed warned that rising temperatures could lead to an increase in heat-related illnesses. He advised citizens to stay hydrated, avoid sun exposure between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., and wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. Reducing meat consumption and eating more fruits and vegetables can also help mitigate heat-related risks.

Dr. Ahmed stressed the importance of early action to prevent heatstroke, outlining symptoms such as excessive sweating, fatigue, dizziness, nausea, rapid heartbeat, and in severe cases, unconsciousness. He urged both public awareness and government support to manage the growing threat effectively.

Balochistan in the Eye of Climate Change Storm: Calls for Resilient Climate Policies Surface

Chandni Kakar:

In the global battle against climate change, Balochistan, Pakistan, serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for climate resilience. The province is experiencing increasingly severe weather events as a consequence of human-induced climate change. However, many residents mistake these extreme weather occurrences for regular fluctuations, hindering recognition of the escalating climate crisis.

Balochistan becoming unbearably hot

Balochistan is becoming unbearably hot, with rising temperatures transforming heatwaves into a year-round reality. These heatwaves pose severe health risks, including heat stress, dehydration, and even fatalities. In 2017, Turbat recorded a scorching 53.5°C (128.3°F), setting a record for Pakistan. Unfortunately, forecasts suggest that temperatures will continue to rise.

However, the climate challenges in Balochistan extend beyond relentless heatwaves. The province grapples with devastating droughts and floods, both of which have wreaked havoc on homes and infrastructure. The floods of 2010 and 2022 left nearly 4 million people displaced, disrupting lives and triggering food shortages and price spikes due to their impact on the agriculture sector.

The 2022 flood in Balochistan underscores the looming climate change threat

The 2022 flood underscored the looming threat of climate change over Balochistan. Driven by intensified and increasingly frequent monsoon rains, the full extent of the damage is yet to be comprehended. However, it exposed the province's vulnerabilities and highlighted the urgent need for effective management strategies.

Balochistan's annual rainfall of just 200 mm barely meets the needs of its parched population. This water scarcity adversely affects food production, access to drinking water, and livestock numbers, exacerbated by climate change. The severe droughts of 1997-2003 and 2014-2017 forced migrations to water-rich areas.

CC affects economy

Climate change also decimated the region's economy through the loss of livestock. Between 2010 and 2022, over 1.5 million livestock were lost, costing over \$1 billion and displacing over 100,000 people, particularly in districts like Quetta, Pishin, Turbat, Pajjura, and Khuzdar.

However, Balochistan needs time to accept this grim fate. It requires comprehensive strategies tailored to its

unique challenges. The provincial government must implement robust climate change policies, emphasizing water resource management and disaster preparedness. Learning from the tragic dam collapses of 2022, preventive measures, such as effective water reservoirs and early warning systems, are imperative. Spreading awareness about climate change and promoting sustainable agricultural practices are equally crucial.

Tree plantations could mitigate sweltering temperatures

In a province where tree plantations could mitigate sweltering temperatures and climate change impacts, government initiatives should engage younger generations in green initiatives. Achieving a resilient future necessitates collaborative effort involving government, local communities, civil society, and the commercial sector.

Balochistan's path towards resilience begins with a symphony of collective action. By addressing these critical issues, Balochistan can better adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, ensuring a more secure and sustainable future for its residents.

The writer is a Balochistan-based journalist, she can be reached at chandni.kakar@kakarchandni7707

Four tier service system: A milestone towards uplifting Agriculture department

By: Ifthikhar Ahmed:

Balochistan Agriculture Officers are highly obliged to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, Minister Agriculture, Mir Asad Ullah Baloch, Secretary Agriculture, Mr. Umair Ali koker, Balochistan Agriculture Officers Association's president Dr Qasim Kakar, General Secretary Shaked Zehri and all others that rendered efforts in the approval of the Four Tier system. Hopefully the said service structure may diminish the prevailing frustrations amongst the agriculture officers.

This will boost the performance of agriculture department

This may increase the performance of the overall agriculture department. Currently agriculture is the least privileged department of the province though major segment of the popula-

tion is directly or indirectly dependent upon the agriculture. Agriculture must be given due respect and regular flow for the survival of the masses.

The longtime lingering demand of our Tier Service Structure is the most effective apparatus that would not only strengthen the Department but also would benefit the officers in order to maintain smooth, timely and regular flow of promotions.

Through four-tier service, officers to get promotion chances

Absence of Four Tier Service Structure is one of the main hindrances in the progress of Agriculture department, because chances of promotions are limited and large number of officers presently retired in the same grade wherein they were appointed. However,

through the implementation of the Four Tier Structure, officers might get equal promotional chances in a flow, as much as officers in the other departments of the province.

Fortunately, financial impacts of the four tiers upon the department are so meager.

Discrimination with the agriculture professionals

There is terrible discrimination with the agriculture professionals rather with agriculture altogether as in the entire service most of the officers hardly avail only one promotion which is totally against the equity, fundamental right and natural justice. Pakistan is an agricultural country, presently it contributes 19.2 percent to the GDP and provides employment to around 38.5 percent of the labour force.

More than 65-70

percent of the population depends on agriculture. It is suffice to mention that from 1960 to 2018 agriculture was contributing 27.38% to GDP with a minimum of 20.22% at the lowest.

These figures show diminishing trend for the last few decades because agriculture and agriculture professionals have not been given due respect.

The officers with inferior qualification and technical knowledge, as compared to agriculture professional, in other departments are bestowed with attractive service careers.

They are given several promotions in the service moreover there is huge difference in the allowances, perks and privileges; agriculture department has kept deprived from all these allowances, perks and privileges which is badly affecting the overall agriculture in the province. These discriminations

are potentially exponential which is intensifying the magnitude of the frustration amongst the agriculture professionals.

Agriculture sector plays a key role in the development of Balochistan

The progress of the agriculture in province, the same is highly dependent on the agro-professionals so it is obligatory that the agriculture professionals must be given due privileges. The delightful agriculture officers mean advanced agriculture in the province. Hopefully this service structure would bring new wave of happiness and joy amongst the officer.

The perks and privileges would also be increased, ultimately they would multiply their efforts for the progress and prosperity of the agriculture in the province.

Withering Public Institutions

Asghar Harifal:

The beleaguered public offices have come under a new wave of employee associations broadening the turf war.

The new rallying point is to assert the right for the coveted packages in wages given to the provincial secretariat. Guided by the tools employed by secretariat employees to secure bloated wages in comparison with the attached department, the number of associations has multiplied and the pre-existing ones have coalesced into a broader alliance.

They have further asserted to arrogate the positions of head of attached departments claimed by provincial secretariat employees. A few days back Balochistan Secretariat Employees Association announced its withdrawal from a grand alliance of other employees' associations.

The alliance was formed to put pressure on the government for demands they all shared; which included the rise in pay and allowances and to address the discrepancies.

A growing number of employees adding public grievances

The growing number of employee associations, in the name of their welfare, underscores the growing utility of forming pressure groups to protect spheres of influence. Taking a cue from the past, the growing trend will bring serious pressure on the frail institutional framework adding to public grievances.

One of the phenomena engendered by growing pressure groups in the public, is written writ large that institutions have exponentially grown in size, while at the same time turned into pathetically ossified entities, foretelling their imminent fall. The eventually will not only bring about suffering for all employees associated with these institutions but will also add to the flight of the public at large. The bloated oversize of public departments in association with their old-fashioned nature has turned them into a self-serving

superstructure and lost relevance to the common man.

A department created for the general public turned into a service provider for employees only

A department created for the service of the general public has turned into a service provider for their respective employees. All the offices at district, divisional or provincial levels have more affairs related to employees than that of the ones for whose welfare the same are created. The resources placed at the disposal of these institutions with the aim to alleviate the issues of citizens, are arrogated to themselves and have turned into a bone of contention for members of the institutions. Speaking of personal experience of a department, with district and divisional level offices, it was noted that more than 90% of the correspondence made with office was related to the personal affairs of the employees

working in that department. It is the case with every public sector institution. Their raison d'être is service unto self.

Element of powers keep their opponents at bay

The element of powers among employees' associations also include larger size, the larger the size, the more nuisance value to keep the opponent at bay. At the provincial secretariat with the aim to enlarge its own size decades-old clerical staff positions are exponentially expanded leading to a 'one size fits all' structure. Despite specialization in every field turning into a norm, the public sector is stuck in an age-old management model. The information technology development has turned the public sector structure into an obsolete entity.

The manpower and the machine have found no compatibility. The only change in the last 75 years is that number of positions has shifted from one service group to another. Mutual bargaining among the ser-

vice groups is termed reform in the system. A third-body assessment guided only by the public interest has never taken place.

The resistance to change has not only left the public sector unworkable, the private sector has overtaken it in the market.

When private sector services are required from the market, the public sector functionalities are found totally clueless about the trend in the market. Resultantly, the public sector is uniformly characterized by sub-standard quality.

The public sector has still not parted from the role, long performed by it but is now overtaken by the private sector with better performance. A role swap from a player to a regulator has still not taken place.

The role of regulator, which should have been taken by the public sector, is distasteful for it.

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Formation of Pakistan Peoples Party, its aims and objectives

By Bashir Nichari:

Fifty-five years ago, an incredible journey began with the creation of the Pakistan People's Party. The history of the PPP is full of struggle and sacrifices, which makes it the People's Party.

The first founding convention of the party was held on the night between November 30th and December 1st, 1967 at Dr. Mubashir Hussain's residence at Gulberg, Lahore.

The primary manuscript of the party had compiled by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, J.A. Rahim, and Dr. Mubashir Hussain, and was finalized after a lengthy discussion.

The participants in this convention were aware that they would create a new life for the people of this land and thus presented the documents for approval in the same meeting.

The aims and objectives of the party formation were to call for a socialist change in Pakistani society.

The ultimate goal of the party policy was to create a classless

society which was possible in our circles only through socialism. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto made tremendous visits to all corners of the country. While speaking at a public meeting at Lahore Mochi Darwaza, the People's leader, in his speech of 3 hours and 10 minutes, shed light on Islamic socialism, democracy, capitalism, and feudalism.

At that time, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto convinced the nation with arguments that society should embrace Islamic socialism and democracy as the foundation stones for a progressive State.

He knew that these were the things upon which our future generations would have walked with pridefulness.

These sentences of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto have become a part of our historical politics.

1- Islam is our religion

2- Democracy is our politics.

3- Socialism is our economy.

4- The source of power is the People's strength. 5- Martyrdom is our wish.

(Added by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto the fifth point) Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto said he had made a public manifesto to bring revolutionary changes to Pakistani society. He implemented agrarian reforms to slacken the grip of feudal lords, improve the economic welfare of laborers, and established social security system to prevent capital accumulation.

Besides, the acknowledgment of laborers' rights under the constitution, the self-respect of the ordinary person, the eradication of social inequality, and the essential honor of vote were some of the significant points in the basic manuscript. People's leader Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto took over the leadership of the defeated nation in 1971.

But after only a few months, he gave democracy to the country by providing an interim constitution.

Then the parliament headed by the PPP majority gave the 1973 constitution.

The ultimate goal of the party policy was to create a classless

after its creation. That was the first written pact of the Pakistani nation, which remains poignant as a torch for martial law imposers. Quaid-e-Awam also laid the foundation of the Party's newspaper "Musawat" to advance his party policies.

Today, the party formed by Quaid-e-Awam Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto has echoed in the four corners of the land and will continue to resonate in the atmosphere of Pakistan.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto stood alive in the form of Muratza Bhutto Shaheed, in the character of Shah Nawaz Shaheed, and in the silhouette of Benazir Bhutto, the martyred of democracy.

Bhutto's personality is performed on the world's stage today in the form of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

His achievements as a leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, and as Foreign Minister of Pakistan in a short span of 7 months are remarkable.

Bhuttoism is still used as a political term even by Bhutto's opponents in this country

to gain public support.

In fact, throughout the political history of Pakistan, the Pakistan People's Party is a Party that won 3 to 4 times in General Elections and took electoral measures for the welfare of the population and the progress of Pakistan.

The country has seen long, dark days of dictatorial regimes. The tyrants tried to derail democracy again and again by usurping people's mandate.

This bitter truth must be remembered by our nation.

No great leader of South Asia can compete with Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's political insight. The love for people and democracy that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto instilled among the political workers should never be lost. Formation of the Pakistan People's Party and its aims and objectives By Bashir Nichari

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India," he said, adding that India has, for decades, denied the Kashmiri people their internationally recognized birthright — the right to self-determination — through force and occupation. AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq said that love for Pakistan runs through the veins of the Kashmiri. He described Pakistan as the center of Kashmiri's hopes, aspirations, and sacrifices, and said that the realisation of Pakistan is a matter of faith for the people of Kashmir.

Paying homage to the martyrs, he said, "Those who sacrificed their lives for this cause are the backbone of the nation." He added that the historic declaration of the Founder of Pakistan, **Q u a i d - e - A z a m** Muhammad Ali Jinnah, that "Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan" remains etched in the hearts of Kashmiris and continues to define their political commitment to Pakistan.

MULTAN (INP)—If the province were expected to receive rainfall, accompanied by strong winds, from July to late September. The authority there said that rains were likely in Rawalpindi, Murree, Galyat, Attock, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahaudin, Hafizabad, Gujrat, Jhelum, Gujarwala, Lahore, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Sahiwal, Toba Tek Singh.

Sargodha, Mianwali, Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalnagar and Rajshahi are among the aforementioned districts. PDMA DG Irfan Ali Kathia said that on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister, Mr. Aslam Nawaz, all district administrations had been put on a high alert.

The River Indus is in low stage at Sukkur and Kalabagh, while it is in medium flood at Chashma," he said, adding: "The water level at Chashma is rising rapidly. It is being feared that there might be high flood at the site."

The DG said similarly, an alert had been issued that there would be an extraordinary increase in the flow of water in rivers Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej from July 21 onwards.

QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar is giving away motorcycles to disabled people.

WASHINGTON (INP): US President Donald Trump has rubbed more salt into India's wounds saying up to five fighter jets were downed during the four-day conflict. Later, some senior Indian officials also admitted losing the jets in clashes with Pakistani fighters. "We were back and forth, and it was getting bigger and bigger, and we got it solved through trade," he said.

shot down during recent Pakistan-India hostilities that began in June 2019. He occupied Kashmir in April, with the situation in the region escalating as the ceasefire was announced in May.

President Trump said he gave credit for "stopping a lot of wars," including the one between the two countries and India.

Pakistan. He reiterated his remarks despite the fact that India's claims about a "US-brokered deal" between the two countries during May 2025.

President Trump, who made his remarks at a dinner for the Republican US lawmakers at the White House on Friday, did not specify whether he was referring to.

However, it was widely reported that he was referring to India as Pakistan has said from day one that it had shot down the plane.

In fact, planes were being shot out of the air. Five, five, four or five, but they were shot down, actually," Trump said while talking about the situation in the region, without elaborating or providing further details.

The US President said, "We stopped a lot of wars. And these were wars that were going on, this was going on."

At this time, however, he backed a claim about the shooting down of the plane. "Planes were being shot out of there. I think five or four or five, actually," Trump said.

Trump reiterated that the US loved the fact that India and Pakistan "through trade." "You know, it seems like a new form of terrorism," he said.

He said that he was referring to when you looked at what we did in Iran, and he said that he was referring to their nuclear capability, totally knocked out that... But India and Pakistan are not doing that."

Trump added that he was referring to the fact that guys want to make a trade deal. We're not making a trade deal if we're not making a trade deal. We're not throwing around weapons, and maybe nuclear weapons, and maybe powerful nuclear weapons," Trump added.

Pakistan claimed it downed the plane in air-to-air combat. India's highest-ranking military officials said that India shot down the plane. May that India switched tactics after suffering losses in the air on the ground. India had established an advantage before a ceasefire was announced three days later.

Trump has repeatedly said that he was referring to the ceasefire between India and Pakistan that he announced on social media in May 2025. Washington held talks with both sides. India said that it was referring to Pakistan's claims that it resulted from his intervention and his threats to use nuclear weapons.

WASHINGTON (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has termed the ongoing trade talks and discussions with the United States as positive.

He expressed these views in a video statement after a constructive meeting with the US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer in Washington.

The Finance Minister said the United States is the largest trade partner of Pakistan and it's quite critical that we move forward in the same positive spirit.

He emphasized to move beyond immediate trade imperative and bring Pak-US relationship to the next level, the real step-change investment.

The Finance Minister said the areas for the investment have been identified in terms of minerals, mining, AI, digital infrastructure and crypto. He said this investment will be a real game changer in terms of economic relationship between Pakistan and the United States.

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Pakistan Air Force (PAF) aircraft win two global awards at United Kingdom (UK) airshow

ISLAMABAD (INP): Fighter jets of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) won top awards in two categories at the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) 2025 in the United Kingdom.

RIAT, which runs from July 18 to 20, is one of the world's largest military airshows, has been running for over 50 years and powers the Royal Air Force Charitable Trust, according to its website.

On Thursday, a PAF contingent comprising "state-of-the-art" JF-17 Thunder Block-III fighter aircraft and the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft, landed at the Royal Air Force Base Fairford in the UK to participate in the prestigious RIAT 2025, a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The JF-17 Block-III was awarded the "Spirit of the Meet Trophy" for its "striking livery and the incredible journey from Pakistan with non-stop air-to-air refuelling," PTV

reported.

According to ISPR's press release earlier this week, the JF-17 Thunder Block-III fighters executed successful Air-to-Air Refuelling operations en route to the UK with the support of a PAF IL-78 aerial refuelling tanker.

Meanwhile, the C-130H Hercules was awarded the "Concours d'Elegance Trophy".

"These awards were given in recognition of the aircraft's excellent flying and technical skills," PTV said.

It added that the JF-17C Block III represents Pakistan's "advanced defence technology".

"This success has honoured Pakistan's aviation sector on an international level."

PTV called the success at RIAT a "testament to the recognition of the capabilities of the Pakistan Air Force".

In May, when Pakistan

downed Indian jets as retaliation for late-night strikes during the Pakistan-India conflict, the PAF formally acknowledged a month later that it was the Kamra-based 15 Squadron that led the charge in shooting them down.

The event is now considered one of the largest air-to-air engagements in South Asia in more than half a century.

"There is a palpable sense of enthusiasm across the United Kingdom following the recent Pakistan-India conflict, as aviation enthusiasts and defence observers were eagerly looking forward to the arrival of the Pakistan Air Force's JF-17 Thunder Block-III," the statement said.

"The aircraft's combat-proven capabilities and operational excellence have garnered significant global attention, making its appearance at RIAT a highly anticipated highlight in the aerospace and defence community."



HYDERABAD: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori talking to media after visit the city at local hotel.

PDMA warns of flooding, landslides as monsoon hits KP hard

PESHAWAR (INP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted continued monsoon rains across most districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from July 20 to 25.

According to reports, heavy rainfall is expected in the upper districts, including Dir, Swat, Chitral, Kohistan, Malakand, Shangla, and Battagram.

Rain is also likely in Buner, Kohat, Karak, Bannu, Tank, Lakki Marwat, and Dera Ismail Khan.

In addition, the tribal districts of Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Waziristan, Orakzai, as well as Mansehra, Abbottabad, and Haripur are expected to receive rain.

Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan, Swabi, Hangu, and Kurram may experience

thunderstorms and rainfall during this period.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has warned of potential landslides in mountainous areas and flooding in low-lying areas and rivers.

PDMA has issued an alert to all district administrations to take precautionary measures in advance.

Earlier, widespread rains wreaked havoc in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces leaving at least 30 persons dead in Punjab and seven in KP in various rain-related incidents.

Heavy rainfall in Lahore since last night submerged several areas of the provincial capital city as main traffic arteries drowned under the rainwater.

Across the city in fatal incidents of electrocution and falling rooftops during the downpour that started at 9:10 PM on Tuesday night.

Two children, 15-year-old Awas and 13-year-old Esha died in an electrocution incident in Harbanspura of Lahore.

Separately, five persons of a family died and two injured when a rooftop collapsed at Muridwal in Thokar Niaz Beg, while three others died and scores were injured as a roof caved in in Rawind.

Moreover, seven persons lost their lives in various incidents of roof collapse in Faisalabad.

Three people died each in Bahawalnagar and Okara in rain-related incidents, two at Pakpatan and one each at Sahiwal and Anifwala, according to reports.

Pakistan extends airspace ban on Indian planes

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Airports Authority has issued a recent notice to Airmen (NOTAM), prolonging the Pakistan airspace ban on Indian aircraft for one more month, which will now be effective until August 23, 2025.

This will be the fourth continuous extension since the first suspension on April 23, after the escalated tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgalam incident in Indian-occupied Kashmir (IOK).

According to the NOTAM, the Indian aircraft restriction applies to all planes registered in India, including those that are leased or chartered, and covers both civilian and military flights.

The continued disturbance in regional connectivity is compelling Indian airlines to redi-

rect flights, leading to higher fuel expenses and longer travel times.

According to industry experts, estimated losses surpassing \$8.2 billion due to rerouting and manufacturing delays. The Pakistan airspace ban was earlier put in place after India postponed the Indus Waters Treaty and launched missile strikes during Operation Sindoor.

In response, Pakistan launched Operation Bunyanum Marsoos, which increased military tensions until a ceasefire was achieved through U.S. diplomatic intervention on May 10.

Instead of the ceasefire, foreign relations remain stressed, and the Indian aircraft restriction continues to operate as a strategic response.

Pakistan's Civil Aviation

Authority has stated that the restriction will remain in place pending further review.

The Pakistan airspace ban will not only affect Indian carriers but also raise issues about Pakistan's dependability as a regional air transit hub.

Aviation analysts warn that prolonged restrictions could discourage international partnerships and impact long-term route planning.

Earlier in the day, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi rejected backdoor diplomacy with India, declaring that no secret discussions are ongoing between the two nations.

In a casual discussion with journalists, Mohsin Naqvi discussed the openness in Pakistan's foreign policy and highlighted the country's moral stand on regional matters.



PESHAWAR: Former senator and MPA Aurangzeb Khan Orakzai addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club (PPC).



ISLAMABAD: Talha Ahmed, the social media star who silently battling Thalassaemia met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan reaffirms zero-tolerance policy on terrorism, says Pahalgalam incident probe still inconclusive

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has said that investigations into the Pahalgalam incident remain inconclusive and firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with zero tolerance.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Shafiq Ali Khan in a statement reaffirmed Pakistan's stance against terrorism, saying that the country has "effectively and comprehensively dismantled" banned outfits.

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

global terrorist (SDGT) group.

As Pakistan continues to remain counter-terrorism bulwark through unparalleled sacrifices and efficacy, we urge the international community to adopt objective and non-discriminatory policies to address terrorism.

"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 behavior, including ongoing human rights atrocities, especially in occupied Jammu and Kashmir," the spokesperson added. The FO's statement also urged the international community to "adopt objective and non-discriminatory policies" to address terrorism.

"Terrorist organisations like

Majeed Brigade must also be listed as [an] alias of BLA (Balochistan Liberation Army)," the FO asserted.

"Pakistan has been, and is a frontline state against terrorism, and has contributed tremendously towards achievement of global peace through its counter-terrorism efforts including apprehension of Terrorist Sharifullah, the mastermind of Abbey Gate Bombing," the FO concluded.

PTI to take strict disciplinary action against dissenting party members over upcoming Senate elections in KP

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to take strict disciplinary action against dissenting party members over the upcoming Senate elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to sources, the party has made it clear that any member defying party decisions will face immediate consequences, including expulsion from PTI.

Speaking to Dunya News, Barrister Gohar Ali confirmed the decision and revealed that the dissenting members were called for a meeting yesterday (Friday) but failed to show up. "The Chief Minister and I waited for them, but they did not come," he said.

He added that the matter was referred to the party's political committee, which, after thorough consultation, directed the dissenting candidates to withdraw their nominations.

"The deadline for withdrawal is tomorrow at 12 PM. If they fail to comply, action will be taken under party discipline," Gohar warned. Also read: PTI's fighting continues over Senate tickets on KP seats He emphasised that the dissenting candidates also hold party positions, and defying the political committee's decision constitutes a violation of PTI's internal code of conduct.

PTI faced internal disagree-

ments and resistance during the Senate elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as veteran workers and leaders who were overlooked in the selection process announced protests.

According to sources, several leaders including Irfan Saleem, Ayesha Bano, Waqas Orakzai, and Khuram Zeeshan were displeased with the party leadership and protested over the distribution of Senate tickets. The protesting leaders claimed that the party failed to uphold the principles of justice by ignoring long-time workers.

The political committee of on Friday unanimously approved unopposed senate election in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dunya News reported.

Also read: PTI political committee approves unopposed senate election in KP

According to a declaration issued after the PTI political committee meeting, all candidates in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Senate election will be elected unopposed while disgruntled PTI contesting candidates have withdrawn their nomination papers after settling their issues with the party leadership.

After consultation with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa parliamentary party, a unanimous decision

was made to prefer unopposed elections in order to put an end to the shameful practice of vote buying and selling.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa parliamentary party was given the authority to decide the electoral procedure by the PTI leadership and the party's top leadership expressed full confidence to their decision.

The finalised candidates include Murad Saeed, Faisal Javed, Mirza Khan Afridi, and Pir Noorul Haq Qadri for the general seats. Rubina Naz has been nominated for the women's reserved seat, Azam Swati for the technocrat seat, and Mishaal Yousafzai has been nominated to fill the seat vacated by former senator Sania Nishar.

As a result of the unopposed elections, PTI will secure six Senate seats, while the opposition will get five seats. Among the opposition, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) will each get two seats, and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) will get one seat.

Senate elections for 11 seats from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be held on July 21. The seats include seven general seats, two reserved for women, and two designated for technocrats and religious scholars ('ulema').



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Junaid Anwar chairing a meeting to establish Aquaculture Park.

Govt to build Rs3b aquaculture Park in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Junaid Anwar Chaudhary said on Saturday that the government has decided to construct an Aquaculture Park with an estimated cost of Rs3 billion in Balochistan.

The Federal Minister was presiding over a special meeting regarding "Blue Economy" in Islamabad.

Addressing the participants of the meeting, Junaid Anwar Chaudhary said that an Aquaculture Park will be constructed on 120 acres of land. Representatives from

Gwadar Port, Korangi Fish Harbour, and Marine Fisheries, Balochistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry also present during the meeting.

Junaid Anwar Chaudhary said that this project will be completed under the patronage of public-private entrepreneurship.

He said that eco project will help in the enhancement of seafood exports. The Federal Minister said that Pakistan's seawater is suitable for the promotion of eco culture.

Junaid Anwar Chaudhary

said that eco culture and infrastructure investment is vital for the country's progress and development.

The Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs said that this eco culture model will be implemented in Balochistan province also.

The Minister directed to shift sub-office of Marine Fisheries Department to the building of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA).

He said that the shift of offices to the relevant place will expedite coordination and decision-making.