

# QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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## CM Balochistan Pays Tribute to Police Martyrs, Vows Continued Support for Families

**Quasem Shah:** QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, paid heartfelt tribute to the province's fallen police personnel on Police Martyrs' Day, acknowledging their sacrifices as the foundation of a peaceful and secure Balochistan.

In a message shared via his official social media account on platform X (formerly Twitter), the Chief Minister praised the courage and dedication of police officers who laid down their lives in the fight against terrorism, crime, and unrest.

"The sacrifices of our brave police martyrs have ensured the safety of our future generations. They are the true guardians of law, national dignity, and public security," he wrote.

CM Bugti emphasized that no nation can move forward without honoring its heroes. He assured that the provincial government would continue to prioritize the welfare of police martyrs' families and provide full support at every level. "We will not abandon the families of those who gave their lives



for our peace.

Their mission will be carried forward with resolve and respect," he added.

Highlighting the vital role of the police force, the Chief Minister described each officer as a symbol of national pride.

"Every constable of our police is not just a law enforcer but also a defender of state sovereignty and public trust," he said.

He further urged citizens to not only remember the martyrs in words but to uphold their

legacy through action and civic responsibility. "A peaceful, safe, and prosperous Balochistan is the true outcome of their sacrifice — and protecting that peace is a collective national duty," CM Bugti concluded.

## Gunfire Reported Near Jaffar Express Route in Bolan: No Damage or Casualties, Officials Deny Any Attack

**From Our Correspondent:** Reports emerged on Monday of a possible gunfire incident targeting the pilot engine of the Jaffar Express in the Kalpur area of Bolan district, raising security concerns in the region. However, officials have since rejected claims of any attack, stating that the train remained safe and no untoward incident occurred.

According to initial sources from the railway department, armed individuals allegedly opened fire on the pilot engine — a precautionary locomotive that travels ahead of the main passenger train to check for track safety. Fortunately, no injuries or damage were reported.

However, when contacted

for an official version, a Pakistan Railways spokesperson firmly denied that any attack took place.

"There was no attack on Jaffar Express or its pilot engine. All operations are running smoothly."

Despite this, locals from the Kalpur region maintained that they heard gunfire and claimed that the train was halted briefly as a precaution.



The discrepancy between local accounts and the official stance has sparked debate over the transparency and accuracy of incident reporting in conflict-prone regions. Background and Significance:

The Jaffar Express is a key passenger train that links Quetta to Lahore, playing a vital role in both freight and civilian mobility through Balochistan.

The Bolan Pass, through which the train travels, has historically witnessed attacks on infrastructure and personnel.

The government and railway authorities have repeatedly emphasized that the security of passengers and critical railway routes remains a top priority.

## COAS aims to build a more sustainable, multi-faceted relationship with America: report

**NEWS DESK:** Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir is aiming to build a sustainable and multi-faceted relationship with the United States, British magazine The Economist reported on Sunday.

Relations between Washington and Islamabad have grown deeper since US President Donald Trump took office. On July 31, both nations struck a trade deal lowering US tariffs on Pakistan to 19 per cent, while also establishing an agreement to explore Pakistani oil reserves.

In June, the COAS made a five-day official visit to the US, where he met with Trump over luncheon, becoming the first serving army chief to have a face-to-face meeting with a sitting US president.

During the trip, Field Marshal Munir stressed the "immense potential for a broader, multidimensional relationship

built upon mutual respect" with Washington.

The COAS' visit followed a four-day military confrontation with India in May, after New Delhi blamed Islamabad for the April 22 Pahalgam attack without evidence. A US-brokered ceasefire ended the war.

There he was, enjoying a private lunch with Donald Trump in the White House on June 18, just over a month after Pakistan's brief conflict with India. "The Economist wrote about the June luncheon. 'Then, at the end of July, came further snubs for India: branding it a 'dead economy', Mr Trump imposed tariffs of 25pc while hailing a new trade deal with Pakistan."

The Economist wrote that the field marshal's fortunes "reflect a shift in American policy that affects India, China and the Middle East."

## Nawab Ayaz Jozegai Calls August 11 Jirga Over Ziarat Land Dispute

**QUETTA:** Nawab Ayaz Jozegai, a prominent political and tribal figure, has called for a large-scale tribal jirga to be held in Ziarat on August 11, in reaction to alleged unauthorised and illegal land allocations in the region, one of Balochistan's most renowned tourist destinations.

The jirga is expected to draw the participation of senior tribal elders and political delegates from both Ziarat and Hamai districts, aiming to develop a coordinated response to what are being referred to as illegitimate and unconstitutional land transfers. The meeting will serve as a collective platform for legal consultation and unified civic action.

Jozegai revealed that constitutional challenges will be submitted to the courts on behalf of the local communities. These petitions will request the revocation of contentious land allotments, which residents claim were carried out without proper legal protocols and in violation of traditional ownership practices and constitutional safeguards.

"We will not permit any unlawful occupation of land," said Nawab Ayaz Jozegai. "Our struggle will continue through lawful channels and public mobilization to protect our people's ancestral rights."

This move comes after a series of public demonstrations held in Ziarat. Plans for a similar protest in Hamai are also underway, with further details expected to be released shortly.



**استحقاق کشمیر**  
**5 اگست 2019**

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## Quetta: Crackdown on Undocumented Afghan Refugees Intensifies as Grace Period Ends



**Manan Mandokhail:** QUETTA: The Government of Pakistan has accelerated the repatriation process of undocumented Afghan refugees, with Balochistan authorities reporting the deportation of 431 individuals in a single day.

According to Quetta Deputy Com-

missioner Meherullah Badini, the grace period previously granted to holders of Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC) and Proof of Registration (PoR) cards has now officially ended.

As a result, authorities have launched a phased crackdown against those staying illegally in the country.

DC Badini told Quetta Voice that 67 Afghan nationals were detained on the previous day,

while another 200 were taken into custody today. He confirmed that legal procedures for their deportation are currently underway.

The identification and arrest of undocumented refugees will continue in phases, he said, adding that the district administration and security agencies are working in close coordination to ensure that the process remains within legal bounds.

While emphasizing the government's commitment to a humane policy, Badini clarified that illegal residence will no longer be tolerated.

The ongoing operation comes amid growing public and political pressure to regulate undocumented populations, particularly in border provinces like Balochistan, where the burden on public services has intensified.

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

Continued to page 2

## Pakistan, China discuss to further strengthen economic cooperation

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## Prime Minister (PM) pays tribute to police for countering terrorism

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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 Sarfraz 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 Buladi, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Engineer Zaman Khan Achakzai, and Noor Muhammad



Dummar 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—no 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; it's time the budget acknowledged their right to progress.

#### Health and Education: More Than Just Buzzwords

The CM's commitment

ment 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 citizen 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-basin where 90% of the drinking water is utilized from groundwater. Groundwater quality has a direct impact on the health and welfare of the inhabitants therefore fresh and clean water supply need to be prioritized.

#### Drinking water must be free from pathogenic organisms

Water from any source must suit the purpose for which it is intended whereas, drinking water must be free from pathogenic organisms.

And its chemical and physical qualities must also be suitable for human consumption. Accordingly, groundwater quality systems are approximately constantly the consequence of human activities.

Accordingly, the (Coliforms and E. Coli) are those bacteria that originate from wastes and intestines of animals and signal contamination in drinking water during testing.

A recent report of the Irrigation Department indicates that the high rate of Coliform and E.

Coli bacteria was found in the water of Quetta which signals contaminations in the drinking water that may affect human health and cause severe illness, as gas gastrointestinal, vomiting, cramps, diarrhea, muscle aches, and headache.

However, anyone can get sick from drinking contaminated water but children, the elderly, and people with weak immune systems are at a higher risk of the harmful effects.

#### Contaminated water in Quetta affecting human health

On the basis of analyzed water quality data the areas of Mariabadd, Shaldara Kasi Road, Pashtoonabad, Gawalmandi, Sirki Road satellite town,

Takhani Bypass, airport road, 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.

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 cause of

bacterial contamination in the main supply lines.

The inhabitants of Quetta may be at risk of drinking contaminated water and may suffer from water-borne diseases.

The report also specifies the high rate of Nitrate concentrations in water in some areas which may cause Blue Baby Syndrome diseases in Children.

Non-availability of regular water quality monitoring of the critical areas and issues cannot be ignored.

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

#### Multivariate Aspects of Climate Change in Pakistan

Syed Mansoor Ahmed:

Climate change steams unbreakable challenges in the future. According to the World Bank report, Pakistan stands 6th in affective of climate change. The awful and deadly floods of 2010, and 2011, extremely dry weather in a rainy area, 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 calculus, 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 result, it causes natural hazards by obstructing river channels, forming ice-dammed lakes, which will ultimately cause GLOFs and pose threats downstream of the water.

The Dilemma of Artificial Intelligence (AI) weapons

Masood Ali Hassan:

The danger associated with autonomous and semi-autonomous weapons systems is unacceptable. There exist a near consensus that such weapons must not be completely AI-controlled.

The design must include appropriate levels of human judgment while resorting to them. This line of thought gains more credence when the present degree of global polarization is taken into view. The international order is tilting towards autocracy and the likelihood of employment of these weapons is becoming a reality.

The norms and values of world politics were subjected to heavy Trumpian strain in the recent past when the competition of naked power showed its ugliness in international relations. The Genesis of warfare. The history of warfare is as old as the human race. 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 zero-sum game breeds selfishness and consequent animosity between individuals, groups, or states. Instincts of survival and procreation are reflexive to 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 etc. enhancing the level of

physical comfort and peace of mind. This pursuit did improve amenities of life over time but alongside increased societal complexities.

War, being one of the forms of human relations, received due attention of social scientists for defining ethical and moral issues.

Key roads such as Jinnah Road, Sariab Road, Liaquat Bazaar, Masjid Road, and Zarghoon Road, where vehicles move at a snail's pace during peak hours.

With no alternative routes or bypasses, all traffic is funneled through these roads, causing massive delays.

Key intersections, including Balochistan University Chowk, Mezzan Chowk, and Prince Road, frequently experience severe traffic jams.

#### The Strain on Quetta's Road Infrastructure

Quetta's road network, originally designed during the colonial era, was never intended to accommodate the city's rapid population growth and rising number of vehicles.

Although the city was rebuilt after the 1935 earthquake, its road capacity has not kept pace with the surge in vehicles, leading to chronic congestion.

Support over 1.2 million residents and the thousands of vehicles added each year.

Key roads such as Jinnah Road, Sariab Road, Liaquat Bazaar, Masjid Road, and Zarghoon Road have become perpetual bottlenecks, choked by illegal encroachments, unregu-

## Energy shortage in Balochistan

Ajmal Khan: Poverty is not a static or fixed phenomenon. It is a multidimensional 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, including electricity (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 use of 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 district of universal access to modern energy services, 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 72.4%.

#### Only 36 Percent of Balochistan has access to electricity

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. A document submitted to the National Assembly

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#### Major Traffic Challenges in Quetta

Severe Congestion on Key Roads

Traffic congestion is worst in commercial hubs such as Liaquat Bazaar, Masjid Road, Jinnah Road, and Zarghoon Road, where vehicles move at a snail's pace during peak hours.

With no alternative routes or bypasses, all traffic is funneled through these roads, causing massive delays.

Key intersections, including Balochistan University Chowk, Mezzan Chowk, and Prince Road, frequently experience severe traffic jams.

#### The Surge of Non-Custom Paid (NCP) and Unregistered Vehicles

The unchecked influx of non-custom paid (NCP) and unregistered vehicles has compounded the traffic crisis. A 2010 report estimated over 50,000 NCP vehicles on the roads.

Balochistan's roads, causing an annual revenue loss of Rs 15 billion to the provincial exchequer. By 2024, this number has surged to nearly 80,000, with a significant upsurge on sidewalks (Excise and Taxation Department, 2024).

Despite periodic crackdowns, including the 2023 seizure of 115 NCP vehicles worth Rs 982 million (ARY News, 2023), enforcement efforts have failed to stem

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 remote 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, hydel, coal and wind. In a for a tally, 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 downgraded province has been ignored and not given its due share to fulfill its energy demands. The energy generated by these projects will not give any drain on Pakistan's economy.

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#### Energy Production in Balochistan:

Balochistan is producing about 2422 MW of electricity using gas-based thermal. Almost all 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 bulbs.

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 cost-effective and 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 resource and wind speed, there is a huge potential for renewable energy in the province. They should not electrify the far-flung areas with conventional grid-based methods because it will maximize their cost at 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 the 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.

Quetta's roads are in disrepair, riddled with potholes, cracks, and poor drainage systems, making navigation nearly impossible. A tragic reminder of Balochistan's road infrastructure crisis occurred in 2024, when a bus plunged into a ravine in Washuk district due to poor road conditions. Despite promises of road improvements, delays in infrastructure projects continue to endanger commuters.

#### Weak Traffic Management and Enforcement

A lack of proper traffic regulation has led to frequent violations, reckless driving, and rising accidents. With an inadequate number of traffic police officers on the roads, many drivers ignore basic rules—running red lights, driving on the wrong side, and engaging in dangerous maneuvers. Although the Balochistan government announced plans to build flyovers and underpasses in 2024 to ease congestion, financial constraints have delayed its execution, leaving residents with no choice but to navigate through traffic jams.

The unchecked influx of non-custom paid (NCP) and unregistered vehicles has compounded the traffic crisis. A 2010 report estimated over 50,000 NCP vehicles on the roads.

Balochistan's roads, causing an annual revenue loss of Rs 15 billion to the provincial exchequer. By 2024, this number has surged to nearly 80,000, with a significant upsurge on sidewalks (Excise and Taxation Department, 2024).

Despite periodic crackdowns, including the 2023 seizure of 115 NCP vehicles worth Rs 982 million (ARY News, 2023), enforcement efforts have failed to stem

the tide. Quetta's traffic police estimate that 40% of vehicles in the city are either unregistered or NCP (Think Transportation, 2023), worsening congestion and lawlessness on the roads.

#### Lack of a Proper Public Transport System

Unlike other major cities in Pakistan, Quetta lacks an organized public transport system. With no buses or mass transit options, residents rely on rickshaws, motorcycles, and private cars, further clogging the roads. Over 50,000 rickshaws operate within the city, creating congestion in already packed areas like Masjid Road and Liaquat Bazaar (Traffic Survey: Quetta Smart and Safe City, 2023). Although the government has revised the Quetta Mass Transit Train project, financial constraints have delayed its execution, leaving residents with no choice but to navigate through traffic jams.

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the tide. Quetta's traffic police estimate that 40% of vehicles in the city are either unregistered or NCP (Think Transportation, 2023), worsening congestion and lawlessness on the roads.

A tragic reminder of Balochistan's road infrastructure crisis occurred in 2024, when a bus plunged into a ravine in Washuk district due to poor road conditions. Despite promises of road improvements, delays in infrastructure projects continue to endanger commuters.

Weak Traffic Management and Enforcement

A lack of proper traffic regulation has led to frequent violations, reckless driving, and rising accidents. With an inadequate number of traffic police officers on the roads, many drivers ignore basic rules—running red lights, driving on the wrong side, and engaging in dangerous maneuvers. Although the Balochistan government announced plans to build flyovers and underpasses in 2024 to ease congestion, financial constraints have delayed its execution, leaving residents with no choice but to navigate through traffic jams.

## Apple iPhone 17 Expected to Launch in September 2025 – Price, Features, and What Pakistani Buyers Need to Know

ISLAMABAD (TECH DESK) – Apple is gearing up to unveil the much-anticipated iPhone 17 series, with an expected global launch date in September 2025, industry insiders report. The new flagship smartphones are expected to bring major design changes, upgraded cameras, and the next-gen A19 Bionic chip – and Pakistani Apple fans are already bracing for the impact.

iPhone 17 Price in Pakistan: What to Expect

While the official pricing is yet to be confirmed, sources suggest that the iPhone 17 base model could start at \$899, translating to approximately PKR 265,000-280,000, depending on the dollar rate and import duties. The iPhone 17 Pro Max, expected to include advanced AI camera capabilities and a longer battery life, may reach PKR 400,000 or more in the local market.

Features That Will Define Apple's Next Leap

A19 Bionic Chip: Faster, cooler, and more power-efficient than ever before.



120Hz ProMotion Display: Smoother scrolling and better gaming performance.

Slimmer Design & Titanium Build: Premium feel with enhanced durability.

Improved Battery Life: Designed to last all day under high usage.

iOS 19: Likely to introduce AI features and a smarter Siri.

The iPhone 17 will likely be available in four models: iPhone 17, 17 Plus, 17 Pro, and 17 Pro Max.

When Will It Be Available in Pakistan?

Apple traditionally rolls out its iPhones globally a few weeks after launch. In Pakistan, official distributors and online platforms like Tejar.pk, AlfaMall, and Apple Premium Resellers are expected to offer the iPhone 17 by late September or early October 2025. Pre-orders may begin soon after the global keynote.

Why It Matters for Pakistan's Premium Smartphone Market

Apple's share in Pakistan's smartphone sector is small but growing, particularly among high-income users and tech professionals. With improved access to EMIs, banking apps, and PTA registration, more users in Pakistan are expected to invest in flagship devices. The launch of iPhone 17 is expected to further boost demand in major cities like Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, and Quetta.

Smartphone Market

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## 76 dead, dozens missing after migrant boat sinks off Yemen

PARIS (INP) – At least 76 people have been killed and dozens are missing after a boat carrying mostly Ethiopian migrants sank off Yemen, in the latest tragedy on the perilous sea route, officials told.

Yemeni security officials said 76 bodies had been recovered and 32 people rescued from the shipwreck in the Gulf of Aden. The UN's migration agency said 157 people were on board.

The accident occurred off Abyan governorate in southern Yemen, a frequent destination for boats smuggling African migrants hoping to reach the wealthy Gulf states. Some of those rescued have been transferred to

oil-rich Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The IOM recorded at least 558 deaths on the Red Sea route last year, with 462 from boat accidents. Last month, at least eight people died after smugglers forced migrants to disembark from a boat in the Red Sea, according to the UN's migration agency.

Abyan was carrying mostly Ethiopian migrants, according to the province's security directorate and an IOM source.

Yemeni security forces are conducting operations to recover a "significant" number of bodies, the Abyan directorate said on Sunday.

On their way to the Gulf, migrants cross the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the narrow waterway at the mouth of the Red Sea that is a major route for international trade, as well as for migration and human trafficking.

Once in war-torn Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country, migrants often face other threats to their safety.

The IOM says tens of thousands of migrants have become stranded in Yemen and suffer abuse and exploitation during their journeys.

In April, more than 60 people were killed in a strike blamed on the United States that hit a migrant detention centre in Yemen, according to the Houthis rebels that control much of the country.

Iran moves to remove zeros from plunging national currency

TEHRAN (INP) – The economic commission of Iran's parliament revised long-delayed plans to cut four zeros from the country's plunging currency, as part of efforts to simplify financial transactions. "Today's meeting of the economic commission approved the name 'rial' as the national currency, as well as the removal of four zeros," said the parliament's website ICANA, quoting Shamseddin Hosseini, the commission's chairman.

Under the proposed system, one rial would be equivalent to 10,000 at the current value and subdivided into 100 shehans, according to ICANA. The proposed redenomination was first mooted in 2019 but then shelved. The current bill will have to pass a parliamentary vote and gain the approval of the Guardian Council, a body empowered to vet legislation. It was not immediately clear when the parliamentary vote would take place.

In May, Iran's Central Bank Governor Mohammad Reza Farzin said he would pursue the plan, noting that the Iranian rial "does not have a favourable image" in the global economy.

The move comes as Iran faces deepening economic challenges, including runaway inflation, a sharply devalued currency, and the prolonged impact of international sanctions.



QUETTA: UNHCR (Quetta) Head Tesfaye Bekele meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakel Qadir Khan.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti is chairing a meeting regarding the functioning of the Balochistan Institute for Cardiology and the construction of a Trauma Center.

## Pakistan, China discuss to further strengthen economic cooperation

BEIJING (KMS) – The everlasting friendship between Pakistan and China from political cooperation into a comprehensive economic and social partnership.

He emphasized that Pakistan is eager to learn from China's economic and reform successes, and termed China's scientific planning as a guiding light for achieving long-term and sustainable development.

The Minister noted that under the Uraan Pakistan program, the country's economy is moving toward stability, with the target of becoming a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2035.

He further stated that all indicators of

Pakistan's economy are showing positive trends, a fact also acknowledged by international institutions.

He mentioned that the policy rate has declined from 23% to 11%, while the Pakistan Stock Exchange has crossed 140,000 points.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal pointed out that China imports nearly 2 trillion dollars worth of goods annually, while Pakistan's share remains negligible.

He added that Pakistan seeks to expand trade and exports with China and that gaining access to Chinese markets is a key economic objective.

Referring to past challenges, the Minister highlighted that political instability and lack of policy continuity had hindered the country's development process.

On this occasion, Minister Lu Hao expressed confidence in Pakistan's strategy to build an export-led economy.

During the meeting, it is agreed upon to enter into a partnership and cooperation agreement between Ministry of Planning and China's Development Research Center.

Under the agreement, China will support Pakistan's economic development through joint research, training programs, and expert exchanges.

## JKCI, APHC-AJK vow to jointly highlight Kashmiris' struggle for self-determination

ISLAMABAD (INP) – The top brass of Jammu and Kashmir Community International (JKCI) and All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) reiterated their commitment to continue the practical struggle to

together for realization of the Kashmiris' right to self-determination. A high-level delegation led by Chairman Ghulam Nabi Butt of (JKCI) on Sunday held an important meeting with APHC-AJK.

Convenor Ghulam Muhammad Saifi of the Hurriyat office in which they discussed in detail the current political, humanitarian and military situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation of JKCI included General

Secretary Raja Pervez Khan, Vice Chairman Lal Hussain Rajput, Secretary Finance Chaudhry Shalek.

Secretary Publication Syed Yousuf Hamdani, and Executive Members Sarfaraz Siddique Khan, Professor Khawaja Farooq Ahmad, and Raja Amjad Younis.

Muhammad Saifi warmly welcomed the delegation and said that the Hurriyat Conference is the representative of the long-standing right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people which has been promised in the UN resolutions and by the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, he remarked.

He further said that

the Hurriyat Conference fully supports tripartite talks, in which India, Pakistan as well as the Kashmiri leadership have a central role.

Ghulam Muhammad Saifi said that along with political and diplomatic struggle, the Kashmiri people also have the right to military resistance against the illegal Indian occupation under international law.

Senior Hurriyat leaders Muhammad Farooq Rahmani, Advocate Pervaiz Ahmed and Mushtaq Ahmed

Butt who were part of the delegation appreciated the efforts of the delegation for the Kashmir issue and said "We are going to organize protests at the global level in the month of August, and we will actively participate in all the activities of the Hurriyat Conference."

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## Pakistan secures historic double hosting rights for weightlifting championships

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan has secured the hosting rights for both the World Masters and Asian Masters Weightlifting Championships, marking a significant milestone in its athletic history.

According to the Asian Masters Weightlifting Association, Pakistan will host both men's and women's events, displaying its growing prominence in the international weightlifting community.

The World Masters Championship will be staged under the prestigious banner of "Grand Prix", making it a global spectacle set to take place

in Islamabad in February next year. The twin mega events are expected to attract over 500 weightlifters from all seven continents.

According to experts, this international gathering not only enhances Pakistan's profile as a sporting destination but also demonstrates the country's ability to host events of global stature. Speaking on this major achievement, Arshad Khan, President of the Pakistan Masters Weightlifting Association, expressed immense pride.

"Hosting both the World and Asian Masters Championships is a great honor for Paki-

stan. It is the result of our consistent success in Master's competitions."

He highlighted that Pakistan's impressive performance at the Asian Masters Championship in Qatar, where Pakistani lifters bagged 10 medals, played a pivotal role in building international trust in the country's capabilities.

"The world recognized the success of Operation Binyan al-Marsous and now sees Pakistan as a stable and secure venue for international events, thanks to the impeccable defense of the Pakistan Armed Forces."



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, chaired a meeting to review existing laws and policies concerning confiscated/tampered vehicles.

## Prime Minister (PM) pays tribute to police for countering terrorism

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif lauded the police force for ensuring public peace and order and conducting hundreds of operations in the war against terrorism to counter enemy's designs to cause insecurity in the country.

In a message on the occasion of Police Martyrs' Day, he said, "Today, we pay tribute to the brave officers and men of our police who, regardless of the weather conditions remain active in the performance of their duty away from their loved ones and sacrifice their lives to maintain law and order in every corner of the country. Today, we also salute the great families of our martyrs who sacrifice their future for us."

"In the war on terrorism, more than 8,000 police officers and men sacrificed their blood for the sake of the home-

land and, as a frontline defence force, saved millions of children of the country from orphan hood as their children became 'parentless,' he added.

He said recently, five elite force soldiers were martyred while conducting an operation against dacoits in Rahim Yar Khan. "Thousands of police martyrs, including these martyrs, are our pride," he remarked. He said, "Pakistan Police has demonstrated its professional capabilities all over the world and the medals and awards won at the recent World Police Summit 2025 are a clear proof of this. The use of modern technology in policing for the establishment of public peace and order and successful prevention of crime is heartening, as it will make the safety of citizens more sound and effective."

"The role of police remained vital in the establishment of anti-terrorism forces in all four provinces, joint operations and cooperation with the Pakistan Army and Rangers, during natural disasters and other emergencies, due to which the citizens' perspective towards the police has improved and the performance of the police has enhanced significantly," he observed.

In the past years, the prime minister said the police conducted hundreds of operations in the war against terrorism to foil the enemy's intentions of creating insecurity and chaos in Pakistan.

"From the beaches of Gwadar to the soaring mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan, every police officer assigned to protect the country is a source of pride for me and the entire nation," he added.

## Most-wanted TTP terrorist killed in DG Khan shootout

DG Khan (INP): A most-wanted terrorist belonging to banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was gunned down during a police encounter in Dera Ghazi Khan.

The police encounter took place on Cement Factory Road in the jurisdiction of Kala Police Station located in Dera Ghazi Khan.

A spokesman of the police said that the dead terrorist was planning to commit double murder, terrorist activities including police target killing.

The spokesman further said that during routine patrolling, some armed assailants opened fire on the police mobile.

In retaliation, police gunned down hardened terrorist Bilal Bashir alias Khosa.

The dead terrorist was affiliated with the banned Tahreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and was also wanted by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in different terrorist cases.

The terrorist Bilal was involved in different terrorist activities, including terrorist, attempted murder, and snatching.



KARACHI: Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan in a meeting with District and Sessions Judges of Karachi Division. Hon'ble Chief Justice and Judges of High Court of Sindh were also present in the meeting at Sindh High Court Building Karachi.

## Closure of Angoor Adda border cripples business activity in Waziristan

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN (INP): The closure of Angoor Adda border crossing on the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier has entered its 23rd month, triggering a deepening economic livelihood crisis for local traders, labourers, and the broader business community. Trade remains suspended, markets lie deserted, and the local economy is facing near-total paralysis.

The local traders' community has renewed its call to the federal government, demanding the immediate reopening of the border for commercial activities, citing growing economic desperation and mounting unemployment in the region.

President of Lower South Waziristan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saifur Rehman told media representatives that the prolonged closure had resulted in losses worth billions of rupees, severely affecting both the local trading sector and the national exchequer.

He said that bilateral trade with Afghanistan through the crossing had come to a virtual standstill.

"The ripple effect has crippled local markets, warehouses, transport operations, and several supporting industries," he

noted. Mr Rehman further said that thousands of daily wage earners associated with transport, hospitality, offloading, warehousing, and retail sectors had lost their livelihoods due to the continued suspension of trade. "Many households are now struggling to make ends meet," he said.

"The closure has turned once-bustling trading hubs into economic dead zones." He said due to the ongoing blockade, several traders have reportedly shifted their operations to alternative trade routes such as Tokham, Chaman, and Ghulam Khan.

"However, these alternatives are costlier, time-consuming, and do not offer the same logistical advantages as Angoor Adda." "This shift has not only increased transportation costs but also weakened the economic relevance of South Waziristan in regional trade," Mr Rehman added.

In response to growing concerns, the district administration has said that efforts are underway to reopen the border.

Officials confirmed that the matter has been raised at higher government levels, and they are optimistic that a solution will be reached soon.



GILGIT: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses a cheque distribution ceremony for flood affecteds in Gilgit-Baltistan.

## PM calls for vigorous efforts to effectively deal with climate change

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has emphasized concerted and vigorous efforts to effectively deal with the challenge of climate change.

Chairing a meeting in Gilgit on Monday regarding the damage caused by recent rains and floods in Gilgit-Baltistan, he directed the Ministry of Climate Change to adopt a more proactive approach.

He underscored the importance of generating funds to develop climate-resilient infrastructure.

The Prime Minister noted that although Pakistan contributes minimally to global emissions, it remains among the ten countries most severely affected by climate change.

He said that all regions of the country are facing the consequences of climate change, highlighting the critical role of the Ministry of Climate Change in dealing with this challenge. He was appreciative of NDMA's ef-

forts for relief and rehabilitation in the flood affected areas.

The Prime Minister directed that a weather-related early warning system should be created for tourist destinations while the local populations should be resettled away from natural water courses.

He said the NDMA and the Ministry of Climate Change will jointly set up an early warning and monitoring center in Gilgit-Baltistan in the next few months.

The Prime Minister said a survey of the damage to highways and other infrastructure should be conducted and communication links of all areas must be restored on a priority basis.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister was briefed about the recent rains, resulting flood situation and damages and the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The meeting was also in-

formed about the progress made on the installation of the Glacial Lake Outburst Early Warning System.

The Prime Minister directed the NDMA to complete the installation of the system in collaboration with the Ministry within the next two months.

The Prime Minister also directed the Ministry for Water Resources to visit Gilgit-Baltistan to complete the consultation and planning for an improved water system.

On other development projects in GB, the Prime Minister said that Daanish Schools will be established in Gilgit-Baltistan. He said that he is also personally overseeing the solar power project approved by the Central Development Working Party for Gilgit-Baltistan. He said the project's approval will also be sought from ECNEC, assuring that it will be his utmost effort to complete the project at the earliest.

## Gilani calls August 5 Dark Day in modern history

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday called August 5 one of the darkest days in recent history, marking the anniversary of India's move to revoke the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (ILOJK) in 2019.

In his message, he said that on this day in 2019, the Indian government unilaterally and constitutionally revoked the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (ILOJK), stripping the Kashmiri people of their fundamental rights and converting the entire valley into an open-air prison.

He added that the Indian authorities imposed one of the longest lockdowns in history, confining millions of Kashmiris to their homes and subjecting them to severe restrictions, oppression, and brutality. "Whether elderly or young, women or children, no one was spared from the state-sponsored tyranny."

Countless people were arbitrarily detained, and the valley was plunged into a state of absolute siege," he said. "Such cruelty has few parallels in contemporary human history."

Gilani said that these inhumane measures sparked widespread concern across the globe. Numerous international organisations and human rights bodies raised serious questions about India's actions and its human rights record in ILOJK. He warned that India's oppressive policies have endangered regional peace and erected significant barriers to progress, prosperity, and stability in South Asia.

Reaffirming Pakistan's longstanding and principled stance, the Chairman said, "Pakistan has consistently advocated for a peaceful and just resolution of Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people."

The Chairman further stressed that India's expansionist ambitions and hegemonic designs can never succeed. "Six years have passed, yet the Kashmiri people remain resolute in their legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination. The past six years are written with the blood of innocent Kashmiris who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their freedom," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan meets High Commissioner of Bangladesh Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan in Islamabad to discuss enhanced trade, energy, and industrial cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

## Security forces can't win war against terror without political backing: Talal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister of State for Interior Affairs Talal Chaudhry has said that security forces cannot win a war against terrorism in the country without political backing in the country.

According to the report, Talal addressed a ceremony on Police Martyrs' Day in Islamabad on Monday and warned, "Those who criticise the sacrifices of our martyrs are being given their final warning. This will no longer be tolerated."

Talal lamented that terrorism is once again rising in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan,

where security forces continue to suffer casualties.

The interior minister for the state warned that over 90,000 lives have already been lost, and if terrorism spreads, the whole world will feel its impact.

Talal Chaudhry revealed that Pakistan and Iran have agreed to fight terrorism together, following a successful and cordial visit by the Iranian president.

The interior minister for the state added that the coordination between the two countries (Pakistan and Iran) would bring a noticeable impact in Balochistan to curb the

terror wave in the province.

Talal Chaudhry added that talks with Afghanistan are also underway, noting, "We are brotherly neighbours and have made tremendous sacrifices for peace in Afghanistan. Now it's time for Afghanistan to fulfil its responsibility."

The minister paid rich tributes to Pakistan's fallen heroes, stating, "Our martyrs are the crowns on our heads. No compensation can match their sacrifice."

He applauded police efforts in mosques, markets, and public places, acknowledging their pivotal role in maintaining order and fighting extremism.