

# QUETTA VOICE

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## People's Train Service to Link Sariab and Kuchlak: Balochistan Govt and Pakistan Railways Join Hands for Affordable Public Transport



**Staff Reporter:**  
**QUETTA:** In a landmark development for public transportation in Balochistan, the provincial government and Pakistan Railways have agreed to initiate a low-cost and efficient commuter train service between Sariab and Kuchlak. This move aims to ease travel for the people of Quetta and surrounding areas, while promoting economic activity through improved connectivity.

The decision was made during a high-level meeting chaired by Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in Quetta on Thursday. Senior provincial and railway officials were present to discuss technical, operational, and financial aspects of the proposed train service.

According to government sources, the plan is to roll out the People's Train Service within the

next six months. Initial technical surveys and consultations have already been completed.

The provincial government has decided to source locomotives and passenger coaches directly from Pakistan Railways to ensure seamless integration and timely execution.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Bugti held a telephonic conversation with Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, who assured full support from the federal side. Abbasi confirmed that Pakistan Railways would provide the necessary engines, coaches, and technical assistance within six months to get the service up and running. He also appreciated the chief minister's efforts to modernize transportation in the province and reiterated the federal government's commitment to

Balochistan's development.

Speaking to officials, CM Bugti emphasized that the new train service is designed not only to offer safe and affordable travel but also to open new opportunities for employment, small businesses, and regional connectivity.

"This initiative will be a game changer for urban and suburban mobility. Our government is fully committed to delivering quality services, and I will personally monitor the progress to avoid any unnecessary delays," he said.

The meeting featured comprehensive briefings on various aspects of the project including rail infrastructure, station development, safety protocols, ticketing systems, and a sustainable operational model. Officials highlighted that the initiative would

mark a major step forward in improving intra-city transport and reducing traffic congestion on Quetta's roads.

Among those who attended the meeting were Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Mir Liaquat Ali Lehari, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Planning & Development Zahid Saleem, Finance Secretary Imran Zarkoon, Transport Secretary Hayat Khan Kakar, Principal Secretary to CM Babar Khan, Divisional Superintendent Railways Quetta Imran Khan, and other relevant department heads.

This project is expected to be a pilot model for future railway-based urban transport solutions across Balochistan, as the province aims to integrate modern infrastructure with local mobility needs.

## Mobile Internet Services Suspended for Second Day Across Quetta and Balochistan

**Syed Ali Shah:**  
**QUETTA:** Mobile internet services remained suspended across Quetta and several other districts of Balochistan for the second consecutive day, leaving residents frustrated and digitally cut off.

The unannounced suspension has disrupted daily life, particularly affecting students, healthcare professionals, and those working in the media and freelance sectors.

Despite widespread disruption, no official statement has been issued by the federal or provincial government. However, sources suggest that the blackout is linked to security concerns, citing a "potential threat" as the reason behind the shutdown.



Ali Muhammad, a school-teacher from Nawab Killa, said, "I haven't been able to check on my students or access online resources. Everything is on hold."

Zareen Khan, a final-year student from Sariab, shared, "I had an online test scheduled today, but with no internet, I missed it entirely. Who will take responsibility?"

Syra Atta, a health worker, added, "We rely on mobile apps to track patient data and medicine availability. This suspension is damaging."

With businesses, education, and healthcare systems increasingly reliant on digital infrastructure, many are demanding clarity from the government and immediate restoration of services.

## Nashad Baloch: Explosion Near Railway Track in Sibi, Balochistan

**SBI:** An explosion occurred near the railway track close to Sibi Railway Station shortly after the Jaffar Express passed by, local police reported on Wednesday.

Fortunately, no casualties have been reported in the incident. The blast took place moments after the passenger train traveling from Punjab had cleared the area.

Following the explosion, security forces swiftly cordoned off the site and launched a search operation. Law enforcement officials and bomb disposal teams are currently inspecting the area to determine the nature and cause of the blast.

Authorities have yet to issue an official statement on whether the incident is suspected to be an act of sabotage or an accident.



Four tier service system: A milestone towards uplifting Agriculture department

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## Balochistan Health Minister Launches Attack on 'Mafias' Blocking Reforms, Vows to Prioritize Patients

**Health Desk:**  
**QUETTA:** Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar came down hard on what he referred to as "mafias" within the health sector during a strongly worded press conference aimed at exposing resistance to the government's reform initiatives. Buy vitamins and supplements Without naming any specific organization, the minister revealed that certain elements are resisting the installation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) cameras designed to ensure staff attendance and transparency in hospitals. "For the last three months, we've been asking them to appear on camera. Their refusal means something is fishy. They are deceiving the public," Kakar said.

He added that the courts themselves had identified these groups as mafias, yet they continue to obstruct efforts aimed at reviving critical hospital



functions. "We have revived ICUs, operationalized operation theatres, and ensured consistent medicine supply. Still, they use vulgar language and try to defame us — but we are not afraid."

The minister emphasized that the real priority is the patient, and nothing will derail the government's commitment to

improving healthcare services across Balochistan. "Let them shout; we will continue our journey."

Present during the press conference were Shahid Rind, spokesperson for the Government of Balochistan, Mujeeb ur Rehman Panizai, Secretary of Health Balochistan, and other officials.

Flash flood warning issued in GB, AJK amid heavy rains forecast

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## ISPR Releases New Patriotic Anthem for Independence Day

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has unveiled a powerful new national song, "Jaan Se Pyara Pakistan," to mark Independence Day and honor the spirit of Marka-e-Haq. This stirring anthem reflects the nation's deep love for its homeland while celebrating the valor, readiness, and dedication of the Pakistan Army. It also de-

livers a strong message of peace, harmony, and unity among all faiths across the country.

The launch coincides with the recent success of Operation Bunyan-un Marsoons, further strengthening the message of resilience and solidarity.

A tribute to our heroes, our unity, and our beloved Pakistan.



## Pakistan's First Electric Urban Train Completes Trial Run in Lahore

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif supervised the trial journey of the Super Autonomous Rapid Transit (SART) — an electric train system designed for urban mobility. The pilot run covered the route from Ali Town to Muslim Town in Lahore.

environment-friendly, 3-car train can accommodate up to 320 passengers and is capable of traveling 40 kilometers on a single charge. The project marks a step forward in sustainable public transport for the region.

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Developed by Norinco, this

## Pakistani Ambassador's Lanzhou Visit: Emphasis on Expanding Pakistan-China Cooperation

**Xinhua News:**  
**LANZHOU:** Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalid Hashmi, during his recent visit to Lanzhou, emphasized strengthening the longstanding Pakistan-China friendship and expanding cooperation across multiple sectors.

Ambassador Hashmi remarked that he had returned to Lanzhou after 17 years and was pleasantly surprised by the city's significant and positive transformation. He highlighted the deep cultural and educational ties between Gansu Province and Pakistan and stressed the potential for expanding collaboration in technical education, agriculture, petrochemicals, minerals, and new energy sectors.

Advancements in Education, Research, and Technology. The visit began at Lanzhou University, one of the oldest modern universities in Northwest China. The university has established strong academic ties with various Pakistani institutions, including Abbottabad University of

Science and Technology and the University of Peshawar, through academic exchanges, joint research, and faculty and student programs.

Ambassador Hashmi expressed particular interest in plastic film mulching technology, which helps retain soil moisture and store rainwater while offering high efficiency at low cost. He hoped this technology would soon be introduced in Pakistan to benefit local farmers.

CPEC and Prospects for Cooperation with Western China

The Ambassador underlined Pakistan's strategic location at the crossroads of South, Central, and West Asia, making it a natural trade corridor. He emphasized that enhanced cooperation with western Chinese regions would strengthen trade and logistics ties and further reinforce the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). According to recent data, bilateral trade between Gansu and Pakistan reached 624 million yuan in the first half of 2025.



State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry rules out any fresh operation in KP

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Q & A

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...

Pakistan — between Beijing and Washington

Something unexpected happened after India Operation Sindoor and Pakistan's agile response through Operation Bunnan Marsus. The four-day skirmish left India reeling...

Cumulatively, the cited developments bring Pakistan back into relevance, and business with the West Plus, re-bypointing it with India...

First Islamabad and Beijing. Two statements on August 1 — one from Foreign Office and the other from ISPR — clearly articulated the special nature of Pak-China friendship in context...

And perhaps for the first time, GHO celebrated the 98th founding anniversary of China's People's Liberation Army on August 1 with a dignified ceremony attended by high-ranking Chinese officials...

The Middle Kingdom conducts its foreign relations in a very matured, measured and deliberate manner. One remembers being part of a delegation led by the Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee, wherein bilateral exercise between both air forces was being discussed...

Chinese relations do not come with geo-strategic caveats. They ostensibly believe in 'harmony and are sensitive to other nations' imperatives and compulsions. So, any closeness with the US is not, will not and should not come at the cost of Pak-China bilateralism, brotherhood and benevolence.

Second, the conduct of the Pak-US relations. Since partnership against communism in the US-led SEATO, CENTO, GWOT, Islamabad has traditionally remained close to the US, providing back-channel support to the 1971 Sino-US detente...

Trump 2.0 is more transactional, upending the traditional US geo-strategic construct and hence the punitive tariffs on India, and favour with Pakistan. Pakistan has, reportedly, the fourth largest hydrocarbon reserves along its coast...

Kashmir, Khan and echoes of betrayed promises

August 5 has come to symbolise two distinct narratives in Pakistan. For supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) — which now represents an overwhelming majority of the population...

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 project that demands a clear roadmap and transparent execution.

Two things to beware

HERE are two things to beware: billions in politics and government officials who publicly praise the 'resilience' of our people...

There are all kinds of parents. Some do not even toy with the idea of educating their daughters. A boy is born and before his umbilical cord is cut, he's already a future doctor or a shaandaar pilot...

Sandy Eldorado

NEVER throw away a diary. It is like burying your past prematurely. In 1980, I worked in Dubai for a while and then for the next nine years in the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. Both sheikhdoms were emerging from the chrysalis of their sandy past...

Some school her until the first financial bump. When the axe falls on her education. Never mind if she's in the matrix or doing a master's, her dreams are the first to be axed, felled, forgotten.

Stories of terrorism

I was once a graduate student in a Texas university and later for a brief period of time a PhD candidate here at the University of Houston. During lectures and discussion sessions in class, every time the issue of terrorism would come up, people sort of paid attention to what I had to say because the killing of Osama bin Laden had just happened a few years ago.

While that reporting has died down with time, what has rather emerged recently is the most bizarre and direct connection that terrorism always has had with either the CIA or the FBI.

Four tier service system: A milestone towards uplifting Agriculture department

Balochistan Agriculture Officers are highly obliged to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo, Minister Agriculture, Mir Assad Ullah Baloch, Secretary...

for the survival of the masses. The longtime lingering demand of Four 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.

No room for complacency

RECENT external developments have been quite favourable for Pakistan — some of them unexpected. Pakistan's emerging importance after the May skirmishes with India, President Donald Trump's soft pronouncements coupled with warm welcome to the top leadership, the sourcing of India ties, a reasonably good deal on reciprocal tariffs, the upgrading of credit rating...

De-globalisation, inward-looking industry, locking, onshoring and nearshoring of supply chains, disruptive trade and openness, the likely slowing down of the US economy, climate change risks and AI penetration have made it difficult for emerging economies to reap the exceptional progress made in 1990-2015.

Two things to beware

HERE are two things to beware: billions in politics and government officials who publicly praise the 'resilience' of our people. Because we choose to be. We are resilient because we have to be.

Adani's rise was greatened by access to land, licenses, loans and, above all, impunity. This is not business excellence, and a cautionary tale for the rest of us. It shows billions in politics are usually there for themselves only. They use their wealth to buy them-

Peace and justice

THE Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity by 2030. Achieving these ideals is difficult in a world that is increasingly polarised and where regions enjoying sustained levels of peace and security while others are beset by violence and endless cycles of violence.

Every paper requiring his approval went up to his Spartan 12th-floor office in ADNOC's headquarters. I had the privilege of working with Dr Krouha for seven years, between 1980 and 1987. Over my long professional career, I have encountered many chief executives, each a giant in his own field. None — except for our Syed Babar Ali — could compare with Krouha for vision, dynamism, and competence.

Peace and justice

Violence and insecurity have a devastating impact on global peace, affecting economic growth and social stability. Addressing this requires a global approach and cooperation. SDG 16 — 'Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions' — focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, ensuring access to justice, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

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## Flash flood warning issued in GB, AJK amid heavy rains forecast

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), through its National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC), has issued a fresh alert warning of possible flash flooding across vulnerable regions, following forecasts of rain, windstorms, and isolated heavy downpours.

In AJK, districts including Neelum Valley, Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber, and Mirpur are likely to experience intense rainfall.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, districts such as Diamir, Skardu, Hunza, Shiger, and Ghanche may also face flash flood risks due to rising water levels in local streams near rivers, streams, and

causeways, and low bridges. NDMA advises citizens to stay connected with official updates and alerts through television, radio, mobile messages, and the Pak NDMA Disaster Alert app.

NEOC is actively monitoring the situation and is in continuous coordination with provincial and district authorities to ensure timely preparedness and response actions.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry in a group photo with delegation of the Sindh Parliamentary Reporters Association.

## Pakistani students from Confucius Institute tour Xinjiang

URUMQI (INP): "Every second here felt like home. The diversity of Xinjiang, its beautiful landscapes, and the spirit of harmony among different communities left a lasting impact on me," said Anusha Baig and Abdullah Jalal, who are visiting Xinjiang among the thirteen Pakistani students from the Confucius Institute jointly established by Xinjiang Agricultural University (XJAU) and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

From July 28 to August 6, the students visited Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Museum, Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar, and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Science and Technology Museum, etc., attended lessons of Chinese language and Chinese society overview, and experienced Chinese calligraphy, Chinese tea art, Peking Opera mask making, Tai Chi, and Chinese paper-cutting.

From August 7 to 10, they will continue their tour in Beijing, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday.

"From bustling markets to peaceful mosques, every corner of Xinjiang tells a story of harmony and tradition. This trip gave me a

deeper understanding of China's ethnic diversity and development, especially how Xinjiang blends modern progress with cultural preservation," Hamza Shabbir told CEN. Talking about why they chose to learn Mandarin, "as an Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering student, I understand how China's hub status in manufacturing makes this language vital," Anusha Baig said. "With China's growing influence in global trade, communication, and education, mastering the language is a smart investment."

Qamar Waheed said, "As a student from Gilgit-Baltistan and living near the Khunjerab Pass, Anusha Baig said she has seen how China has helped Pakistan—especially Gilgit-Baltistan—develop, which has brought true friendship between the two peoples in her mind.

"I've witnessed the impact of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in my hometown. Many employment opportunities, better infrastructure, and roads have been created.

Diamer Basha Dam is under construction, and now the dream of travelling from Gilgit to Gwadar Port and the Arabian Sea Trading Hub is becoming a reality," she underscored.



MULTAN: A special award is being presented to Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani by Mian Salman Mubarak on behalf of Award Roots International.

## Pakistan's envoy presents Certificate of Appreciation to KCEU's Chairman

BRUSSELS (INP): Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium Rahim Hayat Qureshi presented a certificate of appreciation to Chairman of Kashmir Council Europe (KCEU) Ali Raza Syed in recognition of his outstanding struggle for the Kashmir cause.

The certificate was awarded during an event held at the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels.

Ambassador Qureshi commended Ali Raza Syed's efforts in highlighting the Kashmir dispute, particularly his work in raising awareness about the rights of Kashmiris across Europe. In response, Ali

370 and 35A—as a violation of international law and global norms.

He emphasized that India had promised Kashmiris the right to self-determination decades ago but later denied that commitment by revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status. He stated that Kashmiri identity and legitimate its illegal occupation.

Ali Raza Syed highlighted the prolonged military lockdown, arbitrary detentions and human rights abuses in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He also pointed to

enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and the harassment of women, while noting that international human rights organizations and media remain barred from the occupied territory.

The Chairman of Kashmir Council EU also denounced India's demographic changes in occupied Jammu and Kashmir as a breach of the Geneva Conventions and called upon the European Union and United Nations to intervene.

He urged the international community to put pressure on India to grant Kashmiris their birthright to self-determination and ensure a peaceful, just resolution to the Kashmir dispute.

## Federal govt approves recruitment of 3,229 constables for upgraded federal constabulary

ISLAMABAD, Aug 07 (INP): The federal government has approved the recruitment of 3,229 new constables for the recently upgraded Federal Constabulary (FC) across the country to strengthen national security forces. This decision marked a significant development following last month's presidential ordinance, which transformed the former Frontier Constabulary into a nationwide federal force.

The government has allocated provincial and regional quotas for the recruitment drive, ensuring broad representation.

## Pakistan's Women's Garment exports to China see 18% Growth in H1 2025

BEIJING (INP)—62046200) surged to \$6.19 million, a significant increase from \$5.36 million in H1 2024.

Similarly, cotton knitted or crocheted trousers for women (HS Code: 61046200) climbed to \$1.90 million, compared to \$1.03 million last year, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Meanwhile, Pakistan's men's garment exports to China, up from \$4.39 million during the same period last year.

Notably, exports of women's or girls' cotton trousers and breeches (HS Code: 62046200) surged to \$6.19 million, a significant increase from \$5.36 million in H1 2024.

The total export value of men's and women's garments and T-shirts from Pakistan to China in H1 2025 reached \$23.19 million, driven by steadily rising demand for high-quality cotton apparel.

Pakistan's T-shirt exports to China totaled \$8.3 million, with cotton T-shirts (HS Code: 61091000) alone accounting for \$8.25 million—highlighting Pakistan's competitive edge in quality.

## Sukkur IBA University observes Youm-e-Istehsaal

SUKKUR (INP): Sukkur IBA University organized a seminar and panel discussion on the Kashmir Cause, in connection with Youm-e-Istehsaal. According to the release on Thursday, the event brought together faculty members, scholars, and students to explore the historical, political, and humanitarian dimensions of the conflict in Indian-occupied Kashmir. The

seminar began with a presentation by Syed Sikandar Ali Shah, highlighting India's repeated violations of international laws and denial of Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

A panel discussion featuring Dr. Hassan Shah, Mr. Mir Asad Talpur, Dr. Mansoor, and Syed Sikandar Ali Shah emphasized the need for a free and fair plebiscite.

## NEW FERRY ROUTE TO STRENGTHEN PAKISTAN-IRAQ MARITIME TIES



In a significant step towards enhancing regional connectivity, Pak Stan and Iraq have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to start a ferry service between Gwadar Port and Umm Qasr Port in Iraq.

The Initiative, endorsed by Pakistan's federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, aims to facilitate religious travel, cargo transport, and build long-term economic partnerships.



QUETTA: Provincial emir of Jamaat-i-Islami Balochistan, MPA Maulana Hidayatullah Rehman addressing a press conference.

## Man lured with job offer loses kidney to organ trafficking gang

RAWALPINDI (INP): The rescue of a man, identified as Hanan Khan, who was found with stitches after a recent surgical procedure.

During the raid, four suspects were apprehended, while six others managed to flee the scene. Police recovered medical equipment and drugs used for organ extraction from the bungalow. Hanan Khan revealed that he was lured to the location with a false job offer and was subsequently sedated. Upon regaining consciousness, he

discovered that his kidney had been removed.

Rawat police have registered a case and launched a thorough investigation to apprehend the remaining suspects and uncover further details of the illegal operation. It is important to note here that in 2020, the Punjab Human Organ Transplantation Authority (PHOTA) busted an illegal organ trade gang in Lahore.

As per details, the Vigilance Cell of the PHOTA raided an operation theatre used for illegal transplantation of kidneys. The action was taken on the information shared by the patients who were the victim of the said operation theatre.

The head of Vigilance Cell Adnan Ahmed Bhatti said the business of illegal human organ transplantation is on the rise and many people are doing business of kidney transplantation. It was also learned that the group was running operations in Rawalpindi and Islamabad as well.

## Ship Carrying 4,000 Tons of MOP Fertilizer docks at Gwadar Port

GWADAR (INP): A vessel carrying 4,000 tons of Muriate of Potash (MOP) fertilizer has docked at Gwadar Port, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

The commercial ship, owned by The Truong an Water Transport Company Limited, delivered raw MOP materials destined for Agven's fertilizer factory, operating in the Gwadar North Free Zone since 2023.

Once processed, packed, and branded at the Agven facility, the 4,000 tons of MOP will be exported to both domestic markets in Pakistan and international destinations.

Agven's Director of Operations, Mr. Sharjeel, told Gwadar Pro that under its export license, this marks the first time the North Free Zone factory will process raw MOP—a premium-grade fertilizer

known for enhancing crop quality by increasing resistance to diseases and pests.

After processing, the finished product will be packaged and distributed to both public and private sector buyers within Pakistan and abroad.

According to an official from the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Agven is currently running two fertilizer-related operations. The first, already underway, involves importing pre-packaged fertilizer, which is then repacked and transported via cargo containers to Afghanistan and other foreign markets. The second operation, now launching, involves handling and processing raw MOP material locally.

In 2025 alone, Agven has received two shipments of packed fertilizer. In June, a vessel arrived with 20,000 metric tons of Di-Ammonium

Phosphate (DAP), while earlier in the year, on February 4, the MV Beyond delivered 35,000 metric tons of DAP.

Commenting on Agven's growth, Mr. Sharjeel noted, "We are proud to be a pioneer in Gwadar's North Free Zone industrial hub."

Agven operates Pakistan's first state-of-the-art manufacturing facility dedicated to producing high-quality Sulphate of Potash (SOP) fertilizer in both granular and powdered forms, with an annual production capacity of 20,000 metric tons.

Agven also operates its own logistics network across Pakistan, enabling efficient handling of imports and nationwide distribution. The company has the capacity to manage large-scale bulk commodity imports and sources its products from multiple international suppliers and producers.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan meets APSGTA delegation; assures full government support for boosting Pakistan's gems and jewelry exports.

## LHC reinstates female govt employee 16 years after dismissal

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court has nullified the decision to dismiss a female government employee 16 years after her termination and ordered her reinstatement.

Justice Malik Owais Khalid ruled that no one could be dismissed from employment merely on the basis of an inquiry. Justice Malik Owais Khalid issued a 10-page written judgment on the petition filed by Tasneem Kausar. The court accepted her appeal against her dismissal from government service after 16 years.

In the verdict, Justice Khalid wrote that under Article 10-A of the Constitution, no one can be removed from employment without being granted the right to a fair trial. The petitioner was dismissed from her position as a lab as-

sistant in 2009 on grounds of misconduct. She challenged the decision in the Lahore High Court.

In 2014, the court ordered her reinstatement. However, despite the court's directive, the department concerned did not reinstate her and suspended her for an indefinite period.

The judgment further states that in 2014, another inquiry was initiated against the petitioner and a show-cause notice was issued.

In 2015, she was dismissed again. She once again approached the court, which in 2021 directed the department to decide the matter without external influence and disposed of the appeal. The department, however, rejected the petitioner's plea for reinstatement. The allegation against the petitioner was that she sub-

mitted fake certificates at the time of recruitment.

During the inquiry, the petitioner was not given an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

The department claimed that the certificates were sent to the institution concerned for verification, but no one from that institution was summoned during the inquiry.

The judgment states that the court has declared the notification of her dismissal null and void. The court has instructed the authority concerned to conduct a fresh inquiry into the allegations.

Payment of her dues will be subject to the outcome of that inquiry. The court has ultimately annulled the decision to dismiss her after 16 years and reinstated her in service, the LHC ruled.

## Govt enhances BISP allocation to Rs716b to tackle inflation, support vulnerable families

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has substantially increased the allocation for the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) from Rs 460 billion to Rs716 billion over the past two fiscal years as part of its broader strategy to mitigate the impact of inflation and provide sustained relief to vulnerable segments of the society.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Bilal Azhar Kayani stated this in the National Assembly on Thursday while responding to a question raised by Malik Shakir Bashir Awan regarding measures taken to control inflation and ensure permanent price stability.

Kayani said the increase in BISP funds reflects the government's commitment to social protection, with the

programme currently reaching nearly 10 million deserving families.

"These transfers are not made to individuals, but specifically to women of the households to ensure empowerment and targeted benefit," he added.

He said that the digitalization of disbursement under BISP is underway to further streamline access and minimize hurdles. "Beneficiaries will eventually receive their payments at home, only needing to undergo biometric verification periodically," the minister said.

Responding to a supplementary question regarding the accuracy and targeting of BISP aid, Kayani assured the House that international standards are followed through a data-backed mechanism to

ensure transparency and reach genuine recipients. He emphasized that periodic revisions are carried out under the relevant ministry's supervision.

Addressing further concerns on inflation and wage support, Kayani noted that the inflation has shown a declining trend compared to the previous year, the government acknowledges the need for targeted relief, particularly in food items.

He also responded to a point raised by MNA Syed Rafiullah regarding the lack of an updated minimum wage announcement in the Federal budget. Kayani clarified that minimum wage enforcement in the private sector falls under respective provincial jurisdictions, though the federal government ensures implementation for its own employees.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy handing over the sized narcotics approximately US\$ 38 million to Anti Narcotics Force during a ceremony.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding impact of rising population on development.

## State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry rules out any fresh operation in KP

ISLAMABAD Aug 07 (INP): State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Thursday ruled out any fresh operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, asserting that ongoing counter-terrorism actions under the National Action Plan (NAP) will proceed unhindered.

Responding to issues other than the points of order raised by Asad Qaiser and Ms. Shazia Mari in National Assembly, Talal Chaudhry warned, "Let me be clear, NAP operations will not be stopped by anyone, no matter who they are."

He slammed PTI, asking, "Who brought back the TTP? Which CM said, 'We won't fight with you like PPP or ANP?'"

On Youm-e-Istehlal protests of PTI, Talal Chaudhry defended the closure of Parliament's entry gates, citing security concerns during the 14 and a large rally near D-Chowk.

He clarified that the Parliament gates were shut for incoming crowds, not outgoing MNAs,

who exited without obstruction. Commenting on PTT's August 5 protest, the minister noted minimal turnout in Islamabad, with fewer than 100 protesters that too only brief detentions. No MNAs were arrested. In Punjab, 94 people were held out of a population of 130 million. Most protests were symbolic and dispersed swiftly.

Talal Chaudhry dismissed the May 9 defense, stating that popularity offers no immunity from the law.

He said those who attacked state symbols did so for political gain and are now facing legal consequences, with courts in Punjab and Peshawar delivering rulings.

"Those who set fire to monuments were doing it for future election tickets, and now they're facing the consequences. Courts in Punjab and Peshawar are issuing rulings—what more fairness do you want?"

Talal confirmed that land

travel for Arbeen pilgrims from Iran remained suspended due to regional tensions following the Israel-Iran conflict.

He said the Interior Ministry and provincial authorities are in active dialogue with protesting pilgrims and MWM leadership. A delegation met ministry officials last Thursday, with further talks held recently with MWM's Engineer Raja Nasir Abbas, he said. Talal said, "I'm ready to visit Karachi for continued negotiations, adding that Sindh and Balochistan governments were fully aligned and the Sindh governor was in close contact with the protesters."

"The minister further informed the House that the Prime Minister had directed the Defence Minister to ensure facilitation of pilgrims through air travel."

"We have increased the number of flights and engaged foreign carriers, including Iranian and Iraq airlines, to enhance capacity. Discussions are also underway to reduce fares," he added.

## NEPRA announces Rs1.88 per unit cut in power tariffs

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has announced a Rs1.88 per unit cut in power tariffs for the general public.

According to a notification issued by Nepra, the price reduction applies to DISCOs' consumers under the Quarterly Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) for the April to June 2025 quarter. The revised rates will be effective for three months, from August to October 2025, and are expected to bring a relief of Rs55.87 billion to electricity users across the country. The benefit, however, will not apply to lifeline and prepaid meter users, as clarified in the official statement.

Nepra noted that the distribution companies (DISCOs) had requested a downward adjustment in power tariffs during the quarterly review. The public hearing on this request was held on August 4, after which the decision was forwarded to the federal government for final approval.

## Federal govt decides to privatise 24 state-owned enterprises in three phases.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has decided to privatise 24 state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in three phases.

According to details presented in the National Assembly by Federal Minister for Privatization, Abdul Aleem Khan, ten institutions are slated for privatization in the first year, followed by 13 more over the next one to three years.

The final phase, spanning three to five years, will include the privatisation of one remaining entity.

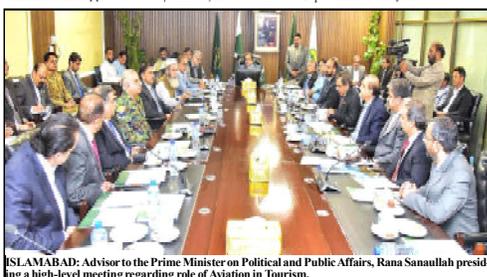
As per the written statement, in the first phase, major entities such as Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), Roosevelt Bank Limited, House Building Finance Corporation, and Zari Taraqati Bank will be privatized. Also included are Sindh Engineering Limited, Islamabad Electric Sup-

ply Company (IESCO), Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), and Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO).

The second phase includes Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited,

State Life Insurance Corporation, Utility Stores Corporation, Jamshoro Power Company Limited, Central Power Generation Company Limited, Northern Power Generation Company Limited, Lakhra Power Generation Company Limited, and Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESICO). Additionally, Multan, Hazara, Hyderabad, Peshawar and Sukkur Electric Power Companies are also set to be privatized during this stage.

The final phase will involve the privatisation of Postal Life Insurance Company, which is projected to take place within the next three to five years.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaulлах presiding a high-level meeting regarding role of Aviation in Tourism.

## Trade deal signed with US to boost Pakistan's exports, NA told

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly was informed on Thursday that the recent trade deal signed with the United States will boost Pakistan's exports and positively impact the economy.

Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani told the house during question hour that the 19% tariff rate offered to Pakistan is the lowest in the South Asian region. He said that bilateral relations with the United States have strengthened as a result of government's efforts.

He said the government has increased its support for low income families by expanding funding for social welfare programs. He said a total of seven hundred and sixteen billion rupees have been allocated

for Benazir Income Support Program, reflecting a twenty one percent increase compared to the previous year.

Responding to the points raised by Asad Qaiser, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry stated in categorical terms that action under National Action Plan will be ensured at all costs to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the country. He said PTI and its workers were behind the May 9 incident.

Parliamentary Secretary for Education Farah Naz Akbar told the house that multiple initiatives have been taken to align the national education system with evolving technological advancements. She said the higher education commission has been regularly

reviewing and updating curricula across undergraduate and graduate programs to in-

centrate on global trends and market demands. She said curricula of one hundred and fifty academic disciplines have been developed in alignment with international standards.

Responding to a calling attention notice, Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services Nelson Azeem said that there is no shortage of life saving medicines including insulin and cancer drugs in the country. He said there is also no increase in their prices. The House today passed Pakistan Land Port Authority Bill, 2025.

It was moved by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry. The house will now meet tomorrow at eleven am.