

QUETTA VOICE

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At least 670 dead in K-P, Gilgit-Baltistan floods: chairman NDMA

Balochistan CM Sarfraz Bugti Says Suicide Attack Foiled on Independence Day, Lecturer Arrested for Terrorism Links

Staff Reporter:
QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti on Monday announced that security forces had successfully foiled a major terrorist attempt planned for Independence Day, arresting a suicide bomber before he could strike.

Speaking at a press conference in Quetta alongside senior officials, CM Bugti revealed that the alleged attacker had planned to target citizens celebrating on August 14. He praised the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), police, and other security agencies for averting "massive destruction" in the province.

The arrested accused, identified as Dr. Mohammad Usman Kazi, is a Grade-18 lecturer at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS). In a recorded statement aired during the briefing, Kazi disclosed his academic background, stating that he completed a Master's degree at Quaid-i-Azam University and a PhD from Peshawar University. His wife is also a government employee, while his brother works with the Reko Diq project.



Bugti said that Kazi had facilitated the November 2024 Quetta Railway Station bombing, which claimed 32 lives and left more than 50 injured. According to the chief minister, Kazi transported the suicide bomber on a motorcycle and handed him over to another handler near the station.

Rejecting the narrative that militants act out of deprivation, Bugti stressed that Kazi's family background reflected privilege rather than poverty.

"He himself was a PhD scholar on Pakistani scholarship, his wife and mother are government servants, and

his brother is employed at Reko Diq. How can such a person be considered deprived?"

The CM further explained that the Balochistan Liberation Army's (BLA) Majeed Brigade operates in multiple tiers—from uneducated foot soldiers to women involved in targeted killings, and finally, a "sophisticated leadership" tier, which Kazi allegedly belonged to.

"This is the first time our forces have captured a leader from the Majeed Brigade's most sophisticated network," Bugti said, adding that the arrest prevented further radicalization of youth.

He criticized attempts by some political groups to justify militancy, calling it a "fabricated narrative aimed at legitimizing violence against Pakistan." His comments came a day after an All-Parties Conference in Islamabad, where leaders of JUI-F, BNP-M, ANP, and JI discussed issues of governance and militancy against Pakistan.

According to police reports, the roof caved in on Sunday, critically injuring three girls. They were immediately taken to the hospital, but two of them succumbed to their injuries, while the third remains under medical care. The bodies were later handed over to their families after official procedures.



One polio case confirmed each in KP and Sindh, taking nationwide 2025 tally to 21

Balochistan: Roof Collapse in Harnai's Akhtarabad Claims Two Young Lives



HARNAI-IMP: A tragic incident occurred in Harnai district, Balochistan, where the roof of a house collapsed in Akhtarabad, resulting in the deaths of two young girls and leaving another injured.

On Sunday, critically injuring three girls. They were immediately taken to the hospital, but two of them succumbed to their injuries, while the third remains under medical care. The bodies were later handed over to their families after official procedures.

Relief and condolences:

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC Harnai) Muhammad Saleem Tareen visited the victims' family in Akhtarabad to express deep sorrow and solidarity.

He assured the bereaved family of all possible support and promptly distributed relief items including tents, food rations, blankets, and coolers. Station House Officer (SHO Harnai) Abdul Majeed Dashti was also present during the visit.

SBP working on exchange, interest rates for stability: says Finance Minister

NEWS DESK: Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has stated that the State Bank of Pakistan is working on the exchange rate and interest rate, and the situation is expected to improve further.

The federal finance minister inaugurated the Job and Education Expo at the Expo Centre, Karachi, organised by the Pakistan Hindu Council. At the expo, around 120 stalls were set up by various institutions and companies for students.

Speaking to the media, Aurangzeb expressed gratitude to the organisers, saying that he had the opportunity to meet the country's future leadership here. He noted that both public and private institutions were present at the job fair, but the absence of the corporate sector was felt.

He said that technology is the path to the future.

Youth should work with their hearts and minds, and always strive for excellence.

Speaking about the Independence Day celebration of the "Mark-e-Haq," the finance minister said that followers of all religions in the country commemorated it with great spirit.



He added that the corporate sector needs to step forward. Interest rate should not be made the single-point agenda.

In order to promote working capital, Pakistan must look beyond banks and include capital markets as well.

He emphasised that the debt capital market also needs to be shifted to the Pakistan Stock Exchange mechanism for greater efficiency.

Aurangzeb highlighted that the circular debt in the power sector is declining, with three distribution companies (DISCOs) set to be privatised soon. He added that the govern-

ment is also working to resolve circular debt in the gas sector, which has long been a burden on the economy.

On monetary policy, the minister clarified that the government has no role in setting interest rates, as this falls under the mandate of the State Bank of Pakistan.

He said the exchange rate would continue to be determined by the market. Pakistan already has funding available, he noted, and the challenge now is to put those resources to effective use.

He praised Mustafa Kamal's efforts in population control and underlined the importance of

women's economic participation, saying it could be a key driver in eradicating poverty.

Aurangzeb confirmed that discussions with the World Bank regarding funding to support such initiatives have already taken place.

The finance minister said the IMF's review mission would soon arrive in Pakistan under the ongoing 37-month programme, adding that the government remains in constant contact with the Fund.

Looking ahead, he expressed optimism that by 2047 Pakistan's economic situation would be that of a developed nation.

CM Maryam orders adoption of Japanese technology for Punjab sewage, waste treatment

NEWS DESK: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Monday ordered the adoption of modern Japanese technology and methodology in managing sewage and waste treatment in the province.

Pakistan generates millions of tonnes of solid waste annually, but only a small fraction of sewage is treated. Inadequate sanitation in urban areas leads to rising floods, waterborne illnesses and the resurgence of preventable diseases such as cholera, dengue and polio.

The chief minister is currently on a five-day visit to Japan. A statement from her office said CM Maryam issued the order during a visit to Japan's largest wastewater treatment plant in Yokohama today.

"Japan's modern



technology and methods will be used for sewage and waste management in Punjab," the statement quoted her as saying.

The statement added that she inspected the waste treatment systems of Asahi, Yokohama City, Kanagawa, Washimaku and Yodogawa.

According to the statement, the chief min-

ister was given a detailed briefing on methods of collecting garbage and wastewater, along with waste disposal systems of Japanese cities.

She was apprised by the authorities that Yokohama was "the second largest city in Japan in terms of population" and that its Solid Waste and Wastewater Treat-

ment Plant treated 1.5 million litres of wastewater daily.

"Yokohama Waste Treatment Plant is also operating several plants that generate energy from waste. This energy is used for heating systems for the local population," the statement cited the Japanese authorities as saying.

One polio case confirmed each in KP and Sindh, taking nationwide 2025 tally to 21

NEWS DESK: One new poliovirus case was confirmed each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, bringing Pakistan's total count this year to 21, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) said on Monday.

Pakistan is one of the last two countries in the world, alongside Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Despite global efforts to eradicate the virus, challenges such as security issues, vaccine hesitancy, and misinformation have slowed progress.

A statement from the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at Islamabad's NIH said the latest cases involve a six-year-old girl from Union Council Pattan in KP's Kohistan district, and a 21-month-old girl from UC Matli-2 in Sindh's Badin.

"With these detections, the total number of polio cases in Pakistan in 2025 has reached 21, including 13 from KP, six from Sindh, and one each from Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan," the statement noted.

Polio is a highly infectious and incurable disease that could cause lifelong paralysis. The only



effective protection against the debilitating virus is through the repeated administration of the oral polio vaccine (OPV) for every child under five during each campaign, alongside timely completion of all routine immunisations, the statement said.

It added that from September 1 to 7, a sub-national polio vaccination campaign will take place, targeting more than 28 million children under the age of five in 99 districts across all provinces and regions. "The campaign in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be conducted from 15 September. The goal is to ensure every child in these districts receives the vaccine to protect them from the lifelong consequences of polio," it said.

It added that the campaign was part of the ongoing efforts to quickly strengthen immunity among children and close existing protection gaps.

"Parents and caregivers are strongly urged to ensure their children receive the polio vaccine during this and every campaign."

Last week, poliovirus was found in 36 per cent of samples across 87 nationwide districts tested in July.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

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

Editorial:

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

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

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

Breaking from the Past: A Collective Effort

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

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

End of Individual Projects, Focus on Equal Development

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

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

Health and Education: More Than Just Buzzwords

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

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

A Budget of Trust, Not Just Numbers

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

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

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

Quetta: Contaminated water posing
a serious threat to human health

Abdul Razzaq Khilji:

Ajmal Khan:

Energy shortage in Balochistan

Only 36 Percent
of Balochistan
has access to
energy:

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

Energy Projects
in CPEC:

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

relief to the consumers in Balochistan.

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

Production in
Balochistan:

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

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

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

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

The Wind Corridor
of Balochistan and
Government's
efforts:

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

Department (PMD), in their shared data, suggested that the wind speed in the coastal area of the province is enough to generate electricity. In this line, Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technologies (PCRET) has electrified 1600 villages along the coastal side of Sindh and Balochistan. A study suggested that the coastal belt of Pakistan can produce 50,000 MW through wind resources. To minimize the cost of these projects, the government should encourage

local manufacturers of wind turbines. In this regard, to overcome the energy poverty in Balochistan, the federal government can play a vital role in alleviating energy poverty by using renewable energy resources in electrifying the rural areas of Balochistan keeping in view the solar radiation and wind speed; there is a huge potential of harnessing renewable energy in the province. They should not electrify the far-flung areas with conventional grid-based methods because it will maximize their cost as the traditional modes of energy are expensive, and in the long run, it cannot meet the energy demand for sustainable development. The government should provide the due share in CPEC related energy projects to the province. Suppose 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

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Pakistan's Ashab Irfan secures Johns Creek Open squash title in US

LAHORE (INP): Pakistani squash player Ashab Irfan claimed victory at the Johns Creek Open in the United States on Monday, capping off a strong run by defeating Malaysia's Nathan in the final.

After dropping the first game, Ashab made an impressive comeback to win three consecutive games in just 40 minutes. The final scoreline read 8-11, 11-2, 11-6 in favor of the Pakistani star. The tournament, which boasted a prize purse of \$12,000, saw Irfan deliver a stellar performance.

This victory Earlier on Satur-

day, both Pakistani players had delivered impressive performances to reach the semi-finals. Asim overcame Egypt's Omar El Kattan 3-1 in a 46-minute quarterfinal, with game scores of 10-12, 11-3, 11-3, 13-11. Ashab dominated Mexico's Cesar Segundo 3-0 in his quarterfinal, winning 11-3, 11-8, 11-3. Both players had also secured their quarterfinal berths with strong second-round performances on Thursday.

Top-seed Asim defeated Egypt's Kareem Badawi 3-1 in 45 minutes (11-3, 11-6, 5-11, 11-8), while

second-seed Ashab Irfan dismantled the United States' Christopher Gordon in just 20 minutes (11-2, 11-4, 11-4), showcasing aggressive shot-making and high-paced play.

However, Pakistan's Ahsan Ayaz and Muhammad Huzafa Ibrahim were eliminated earlier. Seventh-seed Ayaz lost a five-game thriller against Omar El Kattan, falling 11-4, 10-12, 9-11, 11-8, 8-11 in 58 minutes. Huzafa Ibrahim bowed out in the round of 16, defeated by Brazil's third-seed Diego Gobbi 9-11, 11-3, 11-4, 11-6 in 47 minutes, despite winning the opening game.



QUETTA: MPA Mir Zafarullah Khan Zehri meeting with Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail.

Social media age-limit bill to be withdrawn from Senate

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate is set to withdraw a private bill seeking to ban social media use for children under 16, after objections from key stakeholders. PPP senators behind the proposal confirmed that a revised draft will be reintroduced with significant changes.

According to sources, stakeholders raised strong objections to the proposed 16-year age limit, as well as the punishments outlined in the draft. Concerns were also expressed over the requirement to block accounts of minors and the penalties

for non-compliance. On the instructions of the party leadership, PPP senators Masroor Ahsan and Sarmad Ali have agreed to withdraw the bill.

A motion to withdraw the private bill will be presented in the Senate, which will be reintroduced in the House after changes through mutual consultation.

The revised bill is expected to propose a lower minimum age from 16, with 13 or 14 years under consideration. Instead of harsh penalties, the new draft will likely reduce the six-month prison term and Rs5 million fine for

violators. Sources also said that parents' role will be strengthened in monitoring and blocking the social media accounts of minors, ensuring a shared responsibility between families and platforms.

On July 21, the Senate had introduced the Social Media (Age-Restricted Users) Bill 2025, proposing a complete ban on the use of social media by individuals under the age of 16.

The bill, jointly presented by senators Sarmad Ali and Syed Masroor Ahsan, sought to create a safer digital environment for minors and help social media companies accountable for compliance.

According to the text of the bill, any person or company found allowing access to social media platforms to users under 16 could face a fine ranging from Rs50,000 to Rs5 million. In more serious violations, individuals may face up to six months imprisonment.

The bill made it mandatory for social media companies to verify users' age and block accounts belonging to minors. The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) would have served as the regulatory body, empowered to

IRSA releases 544,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (INP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 544,000 cusecs water from various run stations with inflow of 541,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1546.60 feet which was 144.60 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 338,300 cusecs and 379,100 cusecs, respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1213.00 feet, which was 163.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 46,100 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively.

Rs5 million fine for cloudburst in Swabi: 15 feared dead, 12 houses submerged

SWABI (INP): At least 15 people were feared dead after a powerful cloudburst struck Daleri Gadoon in Swabi, submerging homes and triggering landslides in the mountainous area, officials confirmed on Monday.

Swabi Deputy Commissioner (DC) Nasrullah said 12 houses were completely submerged as heavy water flow swept through the village. The powerful torrents caused significant destruction, leaving many families stranded. According to initial reports, multiple casualties are feared as houses collapsed under the pressure of water.

Being a mountainous region, Daleri Gadoon also experienced landslides at several points, further complicating rescue operations.

Roads leading to

the affected areas were partially blocked, delaying relief efforts.

The flow of water is extremely fast due to the cloudburst," the DC said, adding that machinery and rescue teams have been dispatched to clear blocked routes.

Moreover, a landslide in Bada Gadoon resulted in vehicles being buried under the debris. Several vehicles were trapped due to heavy rocks and mudslides, as per local sources.

Rescue teams from Haripur and Mardan were called in to assist local authorities. The DC confirmed that the assistant commissioner, Civil Defense, police, and volunteers had also reached the site.

Emergency measures have been taken at nearby hospitals, with medicines, camps, and relief supplies prepared for victims.

Govt monitoring situation Deputy Commissioner Nasrullah said that the chief minister and chief secretary are personally monitoring the situation. He urged citizens to come forward and voluntarily assist the affected families. "This is a critical time, and people should join hands to support those who have lost everything," he appealed.

The district administration has expressed concern that the death toll may rise as search and rescue teams continue to retrieve people trapped under debris and collapsed houses.

Officials warned residents in nearby villages to remain cautious as the risk of further landslides and flash floods remains high.



QUETTA: Group photo of PPP leader Sarfaraz Ahmed Khosa and others with provincial ministers Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and Mir Muhammad Khan Lehari.



QUETTA: Member of Provincial Assembly Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

NDMA chief warns of two more monsoon spells, glacier melt poses risk to GB, AJK

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman General Iftikhar Haider stated on Monday that the country is currently experiencing the seventh spell of the monsoon season, with two more spells expected to follow. He warned that the melting of glaciers poses a threat to Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir, and that Islamabad and Rawalpindi could also be affected.

During a media briefing alongside Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadik Malik and Minister for Information Attaulah Tarar, the NDMA chairman said that Pakistan is passing through its seventh monsoon spell and that climate change is accelerating the melting of glaciers. He added that this trend could intensify in the coming years.

According to him, glacier melt is increasing the risk for areas like Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir, while cloudbursts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have made the monsoon situation more serious. He

recalled that Pakistan had also faced severe flooding in 2022. He revealed that so far, around 670 lives have been lost, and unfortunately, 80 to 90 people are still missing. With two more monsoon spells expected, the final one will likely pass by September 10. Complete data on the damages will be available after that date.

Lieutenant General Iftikhar Haider said the government, with the help of the Pakistan Army and other institutions, is collecting data, and the top priority is rescuing people and relocating them to relief camps. As per the prime minister's directives, more than 400 relief camps have been established. Army engineers are also providing all possible support to assist those affected. Relief trucks are being dispatched in convoys to Buner and other affected areas, and every effort is being made to deliver food supplies to the victims.

The NDMA chairman added that reserve systems are in place at army aviation bases, and severely injured individuals are being taken to major hospitals. Large CMH hospitals have also been put on alert, and the Prime Minister will soon approve a national relief package to address the damages.

Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadik Malik stated that due to climate change, cloudburst conditions have emerged. He stressed that Pakistan contributes less than 1% to global carbon emissions, yet glaciers are melting due to the carbon output of major polluting nations—about 70 to 80 countries that are damaging the environment. He said efforts are underway, in collaboration with provincial governments, to restore infrastructure and to confront this natural disaster collectively. The federal government is committed to compensating flood victims and taking meaningful steps for their rehabilitation.

Musadik Malik expressed heartfelt sympathy for the victims and emphasized that Pakistan, despite contributing little to global emissions, is bearing the brunt of the climate crisis. He assured that comprehensive efforts are being made to address the damage. Information Minister Attaulah Tarar also addressed the media, noting that a high-level meeting chaired by the Prime Minister had taken place to review the recent flood situation caused by monsoon rains. The meeting assessed the current status in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, as well as the ongoing relief and rescue operations.

He added that coordination with provincial governments has been effective, and several pre-monsoon planning meetings were held at the National Command and Control Centre with participation from all provincial representatives. According to him, NDMA has been consistently providing data to the relevant authorities through its early warning system, and strong national-level efforts are ongoing to manage the situation.

He concluded by saying that relief supplies and aid operations are in progress, and that the Pakistan Army and all welfare organizations are actively assisting those affected.

Schools closed again amid heavy rainfall, flash floods

BAGH (INP): Authorities in Bagh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, have ordered the temporary closure of all schools and other educational institutions following a high flood in the district.

Issued by the Meteorological Department. According to an official notification, both public and private schools across the district will remain closed on August 18 and 19, 2025, as a precautionary measure to safeguard students and staff.

The Met Office has forecast heavy rainfall and thunderstorms in several districts, including Muzaffargarh, Rawalpindi, Bagh, Haveli, Kotli, Mirpur, and Bhimber, over the coming days. It cautioned that the weather conditions may trigger flash flooding and landslides, particularly in hilly areas. In addition, the department warned of heavy to very

heavy rainfall in Islamabad within the next 24 hours, with brief intervals in between.

Officials said the closure of schools in Bagh was a necessary step to reduce risks as the region braces for the impact of the ongoing monsoon spell.

Temperature of major cities recorded this morning: Islamabad twenty-six degree centigrade, Lahore and Peshawar twenty-eight,

Karachi twenty-nine, Quetta and Gilgit twenty-one, Murree seventeen and Muzaffargarh twenty-three degree centigrade.

According to the weather forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, cloudy weather with chances of rain and wind with thundershower is expected in Srinagar, Jammu, Leh, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian and Baramulla.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shouab Noshirwani is issuing orders after listening to the problems of the people.

Saudi king, crown prince offer condolences to Pakistan over flood victims

ISLAMABAD (INP): Saudi Arabia's King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Monday condoled with Pakistan over the victims of floods that struck the country's north, resulting in deaths, injuries, and missing persons.

In a cable to President Asif Ali Zardari, King Salman extended his "deepest condolences and sincere sympathy" to the families of the victims and the people of Pakistan as a whole.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Sibi invites sealed tender forms as per Balochistan Public Procurement Authority (BPPRA) Rules 2014, amended up to date as per schedule based on composite schedule of Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 14,000,000 PKR Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. The contractor must have completed two similar nature of assignment at cost of 50% of tender applying cost i.e. Construction of Protection bund, canal, Dams, weir, and water retaining structures). The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified estimated cost of tender above in the name of the under-against from a scheduled bank. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified estimated cost of tender above in the name of the under-against from a scheduled bank. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 02 September, 2025 during office hours on working days Last date of bid submission: The bids must be submitted latest by 02 September, 2025 at 10:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:30 AM. Address: Irrigation office Irrigation Division Sibi phone No. 03253921118, 032538918624

PRQ No.666/18-0-2025

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION SIBI

Pakistan Army's flood relief operation continues KP, GB

BUNER (INP): The flood relief operation by Pakistan Army in Buner, Swat, Shangla and Bajaur continues for the fourth consecutive day on Monday despite heavy rains.

Ration and other relief goods are being distributed among flood victims through Pakistan Army's helicopters, while people are also being shifted to safer places.

The contingents of Pakistan Army Engineers Corps are engaged in opening roads

and removing the debris.

The Urban Search and Rescue teams of the Corps of Engineers are also busy in retrieving the injured and bodies from the rubble.

The doctors of Pakistan Army are providing medical treatment to the patients free of cost in the medical camps that have been set up in the affected areas.

Pakistan Army troops are also engaged in relief operations in flood and landslide af-

ected districts of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The Army Engineer's Corps and FWO are busy in opening roads that were blocked due to land sliding.

The Islamabad-Gilgit Highway via Babusar Top has been reopened, while Hunza Road, which heads towards Estigun and China.

Deosai Road, and Jaglot-Skardu Road, except Estigun Bridge, have also been reopened for traffic.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadik Malik held a meeting with Laura Jalasjodi Country Representative of the Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI).

Sherry Rehman calls for swift, bold steps to combat 'timber mafia, growing flood risks

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senator Sherry Rehman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) on Monday alarmed the nation by stressing the urgent need for large-scale tree planting and a strict crackdown on the timber mafia to protect the environment and reduce escalating disaster risks.

In an exclusive interview with a local news channel, Senator Sherry Rehman highlighted the alarming activities of the timber mafia in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where large-scale tree felling and mountain cutting are severely damaging the environment.

She also raised concerns about illegal riverbed mining, which is exacerbating the region's ecological imbalance and increasing vulnerability to floods.

Rehman stressed the urgent need for extensive tree plantation campaigns to restore the natural landscape and prevent further degradation.

ing these vital resources is essential to safeguarding communities and strengthening the country's resilience against future natural disasters.

Senator Rehman also stressed the need for sustainable alternatives to plastic, calling for stronger policies to reduce plastic pollution nationwide.

She emphasized the importance of comprehensive environmental planning and responsible urban development to safeguard vulnerable areas from climate-related disasters.

Furthermore, she underlined the necessity of investing in early warning systems and establishing robust de-watering mechanisms to effectively tackle flooding.

She also urged the government to ensure that no international grants for climate resilience go unused, advocating for the active pursuit of funding from foreign countries to strengthen

Pakistan's disaster management infrastructure.

Addressing the query, she lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Bilawal Bhutto for their leadership in obtaining funds to tackle climate challenges.

She reaffirmed her role in raising early warnings, pointing out that the urgent need for investment has been clear to her since the start.

Highlighting her written work against the timber mafia, she stressed the importance of finding substitutes for plastic bottles and bags as well.

She urged journalists and media outlets to intensify their reporting on timber mafia activities to increase public scrutiny and accountability.

Answering the question, she warned that the flood death toll in northern regions is distressingly high and stressed that the lack of proper planning has significantly contributed to the crisis.

Sindh govt says arrangements in place as parts of Karachi receive light rain

NEWS DESK: Sindh Minister for Local Government Saeed Ghani said that arrangements were in place to deal with the upcoming monsoon spell as parts of Karachi received light rain on Monday.

Monsoon rains fall across the region from June to September, offering respite from the summer heat and are crucial to replenishing water supplies. However, heavy downpours also trigger floods, landslides and displacement, particularly in vulnerable, poorly drained, or densely populated areas. Under the influence of approaching monsoon currents, Karachi experienced hot and humid weather on Sunday and the Meteorological Department forecast rain with thunderstorms for today in the city.

Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Ghani said: "There are chances of severe rains in Sindh, especially in Karachi, with chances of urban flooding... regarding that, whatever is humanely possible, which a person, government or institution can do, we have made those arrangements."

He added that instructions were given earlier as well about rain preparations and that the Sindh chief minister had directed the same in a meeting today as well.

According to the Met Office, rainfall as of 8am at Surjani Town was recorded at 2.4 millimetres, 1.5mm in Gulshan-i-Maymar and Korangi and 1mm at Faisal Airbase,

while trace rainfall was recorded in Gulshan-i-Hadeed, University Road, Jinnah Terminal, North Karachi, Keamari, Nazimabad and old airport area.

An update by the department at 6:51pm said that light to moderate rain-wind/thunderstorm was expected in Karachi and the surrounding coastal areas in the next one to three hours.

According to a notice by the Sindh Provincial Disaster Management Authority, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast widespread rain and thunderstorms with few moderate to isolated heavy or very heavy falls in the province till August 22, with occasional gaps.

The rains are likely in Karachi, Hyderabad, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Larkana, Kamber Shahdadkot, Ghotki, Sukkur, Kashmore, Naushahro Feroze, Dadu, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Khairpur, Shahed Benazirabad, Jamshoro, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allahyar, Umerkot, Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, Mattari and Tharparkar from today.

Ghani added that local councils were told to mobilise their resources and make arrangements specifically for chronic problem areas so citizens face minimal difficulties during the rain.

He also requested people and opposition parties to avoid criticism at a time of calamity, but to focus on helping the people, adding, "later you can criticise what-

ever is lacking you see — but when there's a difficulty, I think we should show solidarity."

Last month, at least six people lost their lives in different incidents of roof collapse, electrocution and drowning during widespread rains in many districts of Sindh.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired an emergency meeting to oversee preparations for the monsoon rains expected to impact Karachi and other parts of the province.

A press release from his office said CM Shah put all the local bodies, administration and traffic police on high alert, and directed them to strengthen coordination between the relevant departments and organisations.

The meeting, held at CM House, was attended by Ghani, Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Asif Wasif, Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoi, Local Government Secretary Waseem Shamshad, and others.

The chief minister focused on ensuring the city's infrastructure was ready to handle the anticipated downpour, while the mayor briefed him on ongoing efforts to improve drainage systems at 44 nullahs and critical choking points across Karachi, with approximately 150 drains under the control of towns undergoing cleaning to facilitate the smooth flow of rainwater.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review ongoing relief efforts by federal government in flood affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

PM reviews ongoing relief, rehabilitation efforts in flood areas

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts for rain and flood victims in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announcing that the federal cabinet will donate one month's salary to support affected families.

During the meeting, the premier stressed that service must take precedence over politics in this hour of crisis.

He said compensation will be provided to the families of the deceased and other victims under the

Prime Minister's Relief Package.

Mr Shehbaz directed federal ministers to personally supervise the distribution of relief goods and rehabilitation operations in flood-hit areas to ensure transparency and swift assistance.

PM Shehbaz instructed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to submit a final assessment of damages along with a comprehensive plan for the distribution of aid.

The Ministry of Finance has been directed to release neces-

sary funds immediately, while the Ministry of Health will send medical teams and medicines to the affected regions.

According to an official briefing, more than 400 rescue operations have been conducted, and 46 relief camps have been established to shelter displaced families. Property damages are estimated at over Rs125 million.

The premier emphasised that federal ministers will remain in the field until the last affected citizen receives assistance and basic infrastructure is fully restored.

At least 670 dead in K-P, Gilgit-Baltistan floods: chairman NDMA

NEWS DESK: At least 670 people have died and 1,000 others have been injured in recent rains, floods and landslides across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B), the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman said on Monday.

NDMA Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik said over 420 flood relief camps have been activated in the affected areas, adding that the authority remains in constant coordination with provincial governments to ensure timely assistance.

Briefing reporters alongside Minister for Information Attiaullah Tarar and Minister for Climate Change Musadik Malik, he said two to three more monsoon spells are expected, with the current spell likely to continue until Friday. He added that the situation is expected to normalise by the end of September.

Tarar said a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister reviewed the flood situation and ongoing rescue operations in K-P and G-B. He stressed that coordination with provincial governments is being carried out effectively, with NDMA regularly providing early warning data for their losses and directed them to strengthen coordination between the relevant departments and organisations.

The meeting, held at CM House, was attended by Ghani, Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Asif Wasif, Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoi, Local Government Secretary Waseem Shamshad, and others.

The chief minister focused on ensuring the city's infrastructure was ready to handle the anticipated downpour, while the mayor briefed him on ongoing efforts to improve drainage systems at 44 nullahs and critical choking points across Karachi, with approximately 150 drains under the control of towns undergoing cleaning to facilitate the smooth flow of rainwater.

the request of the NDMA, has dispatched critical supplies, including medicines, tents, blankets, and de-watering pumps, to the flood-affected regions.

Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal said that the ministry is in constant communication with NDMA and the provincial authorities to ensure the timely and effective delivery of aid.

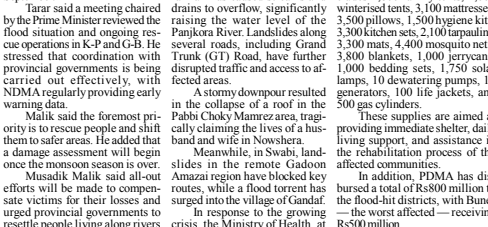
On the directive of the Chief Minister of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has completed the delivery of relief goods to the flood-affected districts of Buner, Bajaur, Swat, and Shangla, according to a PDMA spokesperson.

A total of 89 trucks carrying essential supplies have been dispatched to meet the urgent needs of families impacted by recent rains and flash floods.

The relief consignments include 1,800 family tents, 1,000 winterised tents, 3,100 mattresses, 3,500 pillows, 1,500 hygiene kits, 3,300 kitchen sets, 2,100 tarpaulins, 3,300 mats, 4,400 mosquito nets, 3,800 blankets, 1,000 jerrycans, 1,000 bedding sets, 1,750 solar lamps, 10 de-watering pumps, 10 generators, 100 life jackets, and 500 gas cylinders.

These supplies are aimed at providing immediate shelter, daily living support, and assistance in the rehabilitation process of the affected communities.

In addition, PDMA has disbursed a total of Rs800 million to the flood-affected districts, with the worst affected — receiving Rs500 million.



ISLAMABAD: Swedish Ambassador to Pakistan Alexandra Berg von Linde calls on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan.

CM Sindh approves construction of two towers in Larkana hospital, increase bed capacity up-to 600

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a meeting regarding the establishment of a modern hospital in Larkana on Monday. The meeting was held in the Chief Minister's house Sindh Karachi.

The meeting was attended by Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, MPA Jameel Soomro, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Principal Secretary Agha Wasif, P&D Chairman Najam Shah, Health Secretary Rehman Baloch, Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoi and others.

A briefing was given to the

Sindh CM during the meeting about the 16-acre hospital site in Larkana city. Sindh CM approves construction of two towers in Larkana hospital.

The bed capacity in Larkana hospital to be increased to 600. "The old hospital in the city center will be rebuilt on modern lines, ensuring all facilities are available in one place."

"Emergency gynecology, cardiology, children's hospital, surgical, and other facilities will be available under one roof," says Murad Ali Shah.

Sindh CM directs Chief Secretary to promptly hire a consultant. "The consultant

will prepare a layout for constructing different towers in the hospital. All roads leading to the hospital will be widened. "I want the Larkana hospital to be constructed and operational within two years," announces CM Sindh.

Sindh CM directs Chief Secretary to form a committee, the Larkana Hospital Committee, to include P&D Chairman, Finance Secretary, and Health Secretary. "The committee must hire a consultant, finalize the hospital's design and initiate work immediately," Sindh CM instructs Chief Secretary to issue a notification for the hospital committee.



TEHRAN: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, witnessing the signing of landmark agreements on agricultural trade and cooperation between Pakistan and Iran in Tehran.