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Karachi continues to receive heavy rain; main streets flooded, several areas without power

Illegal Trawling in Balochistan Will Not Be Tolerated, Says CM Sarfraz Bugti

Quasem Shah:
QUETTA, AUGUST 19—Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has issued strict directives to end illegal trawling in the province's coastal waters, calling it an injustice to local fishermen and coastal communities.

He said such practices would not be tolerated under any circumstances and ordered the Fisheries Department to ensure its complete eradication.

The Chief Minister was addressing a high-level meeting of the Secretaries Committee at the CM Secretariat. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Mir Saleem Khan Khosa, and Mir Shoaib Noshervani, along with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakkel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretaries Zahid Saleem and Hanza Shalqat, Principal Secretary Babar Khan, and secretaries of all departments.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of ongoing development projects in Balochistan was conducted. CM Bugti emphasized that all departments are responsible for ensuring transparency, quality, and timely completion of projects. He directed



that small schemes with 100% allocations must be completed by January 1 next year, stressing that no compromise on quality will be accepted. Bugti further highlighted that the provincial government's top priority is to complete public interest development schemes within the stipulated time.

He ordered all departments to ensure transparent and timely use of allocated funds, while also establishing a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to track institutional performance, project progress, and fund utilization. Every department will now be required to

submit a monthly report on project status and expenditures. The Chief Minister warned that officers responsible for negligence or delays would face strict action.

"The resources of Balochistan belong to the people and must be spent on public service and welfare projects. Transparency, speed, and accountability are our key priorities," he stated.

The meeting also discussed the education sector, where CM Bugti directed officials to expedite reforms in the Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education. He em-

phasized ensuring merit and transparency to transform the Board into a model institution.

Additionally, Bugti instructed that the next committee meeting should review all foreign-funded and federal projects.

He announced that the practice of "concept papers" is being abolished, and only practical, site-assessed PC-Is will be considered for approval. He also directed that departmental approval for new development projects must be completed at least three months before the annual budget, to guarantee timely implementation.



5.2-magnitude quake jolts Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and parts of KP: PMD

Balochistan to Launch Province-Wide Prisoner Screening for TB, Hepatitis, and AIDS

Staff Reporter:
QUETTA, AUGUST 19—The Government of Balochistan has announced a province-wide health screening program for prisoners, covering TB, Hepatitis, and AIDS, on the directives of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, and Health Secretary Mujeeb Rehman Panezi. The initiative is designed to safeguard inmates and prison staff while curbing the spread of infectious diseases. The decision was finalized during a high-level meeting of the Balochistan TB Control Program, attended by senior health experts including Dr. Sher Afzal Raisani, Dr. Sarfraz Noshervani, Dr. Amir Ali Bugti, Dr. Aimal Khan, Dr. Muhammad Shahid Jareen, and Dr. Davood Achakzai. Officials emphasized the importance of a comprehensive



health strategy in prisons to ensure early detection and timely treatment of life-threatening illnesses. The screening campaign, they noted, will not only improve healthcare services for

inmates but also create a healthier prison environment, protect staff members, and strengthen the province's overall public health system.

According to health authorities, the program will play a vital role in reducing the disease burden in Balochistan and aligns with the government's vision of improving public health services across the province.

Karachi Under Water

Karachi witnessed heavy monsoon showers, with certain parts of the city receiving more than 100mm of rainfall, raising concerns of urban flooding and damage to infrastructure. Within hours, several main roads were submerged, disrupting traffic flow and leaving commuters stuck for long durations. "Low-lying localities faced severe water accumulation as rainwater entered houses, markets, and workplaces, forcing

many residents to move to safer places.

Widespread power breakdowns were also reported in different districts, further compounding public difficulties.

"Rescue services and city administration teams have been deployed across affected areas to drain water and restore normal life." "Disclaimer: The accompanying image is AI-generated. It does not depict an actual incident but has been created through artificial intelligence.



5.2-magnitude quake jolts Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and parts of KP: PMD

NEWS DESK: A 5.2-magnitude earthquake on Tuesday jolted Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and several parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Seismic Network of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said in a statement.

According to the statement, the quake was felt in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, KP's Peshawar, Swat, Chitral, and Abbottabad.

The PMD's press release said that the earthquake originated at 10:20am PKT. Its epicentre was the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan, at a depth of 190 kilometres.

Punjab's Provincial Disaster Management Authority reported that the earthquake was also felt in the province's divisions of Bahawalpur,



Dera Ghazi Khan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Lahore, Multan, Sahiwal and Sargodha. No casualties have been reported so far, and according to KP's Rescue 1122 spokesperson Bilal Faizi, an emergency has not yet been declared. Pakistan falls on three major tectonic plates — the Arabian,

Euro-Asian and Indian — which create five seismic zones under the country. The intersection of multiple fault lines means that tectonic movements remain a frequent occurrence in the region.

The Hindu Kush region is recognised as one of the most active seismic zones in the world,

lying at the junction of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates where their ongoing collision generates frequent earthquakes, including rare deep-focus events that can reach depths of over 200km, according to the US Geological Survey. This seismicity is attributed to subduction-related processes.

Pakistan among most climate-hit countries: Senate chairman

NEWS DESK: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has said that climate change is an urgent reality and despite contributing less than one percent to global emissions, Pakistan is among the most climate-affected countries, facing floods, glacial melt, and droughts.

He expressed these views while addressing the "Ethiopia-Pakistan Green Dialogue: Lessons from Ethiopia's Green Legacy" at the Comstech Auditorium, Islamabad, on Monday.

The OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, organised the dialogue. He praised Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative as a global model of reforestation and sustainability, noting that both nations face common challenges but can find solutions through South-South cooperation. He underlined Pakistan's active role in global climate diplomacy, including championing the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 and advancing climate finance at COP29.

Mr. Gilani called for practical collaboration through joint task forces, parliamentary exchanges, and research partnerships, while inviting Ethiopia's parliamentary leadership to the upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference. He informed the



participants that landmark laws like the Pakistan Climate Change Act and National Energy Efficiency Act have been passed by the parliament.

He urged the parliamentary committees to actively monitor climate finance, adaptation plans, and carbon markets to ensure implementation. He

further stated that Pakistan's Green Pakistan Programme, Living Indus Initiative, and Indus Delta Blue Carbon Project resonate with Ethiopia's visionary Green Legacy Initiative.

"If climate change is our greatest challenge, South-South cooperation is our most potent tool", Chairman Senate remarked.

"We face shared constraints—limited climate finance, exposure to extreme weather, and climate-dependent economies," he added. He observed that the way forward lies in coordinated efforts at the government, parliamentary and institutional levels.

He called for maximizing linkages in legislative spheres, creating a Joint Task Force on Climate Resilience to coordinate policy and projects and strengthening linkages between academia and research institutes to exchange expertise. The Chairman Senate also invited Ethiopia's Parliamentary leadership to the ISC in Islamabad in November 2025.

He said: "Together, we can build a greener, safer, and sustainable future." Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, OIC-COMSTECH, highlighted the importance of green diplomacy and collective action in tackling global challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and environmental degradation.

Ambassador Dr. Jemal Bekir Abdula underlined Ethiopia's remarkable achievements through the Green Legacy campaign, which has set an international benchmark for combating climate change through mass tree plantation and sustainable practices. The participants expressed strong support for further enhancing Pakistan-Ethiopia collaboration in climate resilience, ecological restoration and sustainable development. The dialogue underscored the shared vision of both countries in advancing environmental diplomacy and building a greener, sustainable future for generations to come.

Editor: Asim Khan

Cabinet Reshuffle in Balochistan Must Prioritize Governance, Not Power Games

Editorial: Balochistan appears to be on the cusp of a significant political shake-up. According to credible government insiders, a cabinet reshuffle is expected soon after the passage of the fiscal year 2025-26 provincial budget. While reshuffles are not unusual, the stakes are much higher this time—with growing public discontent over ministerial perks, administrative inefficiencies, and unchecked spending.

Originally planned for post-Eid-ul-Adha, the reshuffle must bring in delay to ensure the smooth passage of the budget in the Balochistan Assembly. This strategic timing reflects a broader intention: to address key citizen concerns over accountability, fiscal responsibility, and governance.

What's especially noteworthy is the reported plan to replace non-elected members, particularly advisers and women on reserved seats, with elected lawmakers. If implemented with sincerity, this could help restore public trust and reduce unnecessary government expenditure—especially as some advisers enjoy salaries and allowances

equal to full-fledged ministers without the electoral mandate to back them. Another pressing concern that demands attention is the consistent absence of ministers from their offices. People travel hundreds of kilometers to the Civil Secretariat in Quetta, only to wait in vain for hours or even days. Supporters and citizens are left stranded without even access to clean drinking water, while the ministers remain unaccountable.

A meaningful reshuffle must bring in dynamic, educated, and service-oriented ministers who are present in their offices, responsive to the public, and capable of addressing basic issues like citizen grievances, infrastructure complaints, and public service delivery.

What's especially noteworthy is the reported plan to replace non-elected members, particularly advisers and women on reserved seats, with elected lawmakers. If implemented with sincerity, this could help restore public trust and reduce unnecessary government expenditure—especially as some advisers enjoy salaries and allowances

blind to the lavish benefits enjoyed by ministers, even as the province grapples with budget deficits, healthcare underfunding, education sector neglect, and rural infrastructure breakdown.

The political dynamics of this move are also tied to the 2027 Senate elections, where influence and party strength will rely heavily on elected representatives.

This makes the upcoming reshuffle not only a matter of government reform but also of long-term political strategy.

Still, the reshuffle must be more than a game of musical chairs. If Balochistan's leadership is serious about reform, it should go beyond token changes.

Ministers must be evaluated based on performance, transparency, and public engagement. Ministers must be held accountable for political loyalty.

The province deserves a cabinet that reflects competence, accountability, and the will to serve, especially at a time when every rupee spent is being scrutinized. This reshuffle is an opportunity to reset the system. Wasting it would only deepen public frustration.

By S. Akbar Zaidi:

Undermining universities

As university teachers across Pakistan received their pay cheques for July, the first month of the new financial year 2025-26, they discovered that their take-home pay was considerably lower than what it was in May or June this year. If they did not receive a raise at the start of the financial year, it is possible that their income may have even been reduced by 25 per cent compared to what they received earlier this year thanks to the removal of a rebate that university teachers and professors used to get. The government had earlier announced that the rebate would be withdrawn because, according to officials, the IMF rejected proposals of the FBR to allow [the] 25 per cent tax rebate to teachers and researchers from July 1, 2025. "Why bother having a government when the IMF runs economic policy?"

Good faculty are singularly the most essential requirement for any university in order to be able to deliver quality education. The measures taken by the government, or by their minders at the IMF, will dissuade numerous qualified and competent men and, particularly, women, wanting to join the teaching profession in Pakistan. While the lack of quality faculty is a perennial problem in Pakistan, it is hardly the only one and there are numerous other challenges that undermine higher education.

While many commentators have expressed surprise that there are no Pakistani universities in the top tiers of the QS Ranking list, a global mechanism to assess research and teaching at universities—a methodology which has its own particular problems—what would have been surprising is if there had, indeed, been any Pakistan university in the top 350 of the world. There are around 270 institutions of higher learning that the HEC accounts for. Of these, around 170 are in the public sector, with the rest of them private universities. However, a huge preponderance of such universities, if they can even be called that, give degrees rather than education. Pakistan's so-called universities, for the most part, are degree-awarding institutions rather than centres and institutions of learning, ideas and critical thinking.

Almost all university administrators in Pakistan bemoan the fact that their institutions face serious financial constraints. This is true and there is little doubt that the financial resources made available by the HEC to universities have not increased in real terms in many years. However, given the very poor state of education and what universities deliver and produce, perhaps it is wiser not to waste more money on continuously poor outcomes. An increased budget to universities by the government would not necessarily produce better results: more buildings, certainly, but not quality students.

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The few excellent universities which exist in Pakistan, some of which are in the private sector, are particularly dependent on student fees to run their establishments, rather than on public handouts. As much as 60 to 65 per cent of their incomes arise from fees, and since they have the ability to raise their fees every year, they can ensure that they run their enterprises in a way which can provide better quality education. This also allows them to pay more to their faculty and attract better teachers.

Constituency-level and populist politics in Pakistan, and the fact that higher education is a very lucrative business, has given rise to the frayed belief that each electoral constituency or town must have its own university, regardless of the fact that there just aren't enough good university teachers to go around. Who can forget the last day of the previous parliament, the 15th National Assembly, in August 2023, when as many as 25 universities, most of which were private, received approval? Those who teach at universities warned that such collusion between influential and rich "education investors" and parliamentarians would spell greater disaster for higher education in Pakistan. Not surprisingly, such concerns have proven true.

Of the 270 or so universities in Pakistan, even by very generous standards perhaps 50 or so, at best, actually provide decent education, where students are taught to think, to be creative, to learn some professional skills in order to be able to find some kind of employment. Graduate unemployment exists not because there aren't enough jobs but because students have not been sufficiently trained or educated.

A major cause for the continuing poor performance of higher education is also, ironically, the regulator and overseer of higher education in Pakistan, ie, the HEC. The HEC bureaucracy does not have the ability or scale to oversee the 270 universities in Pakistan. Worse still, they treat all universities alike: the 50 or so better institutions are clubbed together with the 100 or so least developed, poorest, ones.

One major intervention needed in the administration of the higher education sector is to distinguish between the different quality of universities. Universities are not alike and different categories need to be regulated differently, some perhaps not at all. If the HEC would leave better-quality universities to their own devices, not interfering in how these universities function, they would do us a great service. Say, a four-tiered "league table", where struggling universities are supported much more, both administratively and financially, in order to raise their standards, would work better. The top 50 or so universities, which have some measure of quality, should be allowed to become more autonomous and efficient without much meddling.

Dissecting disaster

THE first phase of the

monsoon cycle has left death and destruction in the country. According to data from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), 289 people lost their lives and 698 were injured in five weeks. Punjab was the worst-hit province with 158 deaths, followed by KP where 64 people died.

Additionally, the rains and floods damaged 1,580 houses, with 61,000 people registered as homeless.

The political dynamics of this move are also tied to the 2027 Senate elections, where influence and party strength will rely heavily on elected representatives.

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Still, the reshuffle must be more than a game of musical chairs. If Balochistan's leadership is serious about reform, it should go beyond token changes.

Ministers must be evaluated based on performance, transparency, and public engagement. Ministers must be held accountable for political loyalty.

The province deserves a cabinet that reflects competence, accountability, and the will to serve, especially at a time when every rupee spent is being scrutinized. This reshuffle is an opportunity to reset the system. Wasting it would only deepen public frustration.

Quetta's Traffic Chaos: Urgent Reforms Needed to Fix the Crisis

Quetta, once a city

known for its peaceful ambience, now faces an escalating traffic crisis. Every day, thousands of commuters endure hours of gridlock, navigating congested roads, reckless drivers, and deteriorating infrastructure. From rickshaws and motorcycles to private cars, the overwhelming number of vehicles clogs major roads, while encroachments and illegal parking worsen the situation.

The city's transport system is on the brink of collapse, demanding immediate intervention from both authorities and residents. This article explores the root causes of Quetta's traffic woes, identifies the most affected areas, and outlines urgent solutions to restore order to the roads.

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 remained largely unchanged, struggling to support over 1.2 million residents and the thousands of vehicles added each year.

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, Zarghoon Road, where

vehicles move at a snail's pace during peak hours.

With no alternative routes or bypasses, all traffic is funnelled through these roads, causing massive delays. Key intersections, including Balochistan University Chowk, Meozan Chowk, and Prince Road, frequently experience severe traffic jams. The Non-Custom Paid (NCP) and Unregistered Vehicles The unchecked influx of non-custom paid (NCP) and unregistered vehicles has compounded the traffic crisis.

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Landmine Blast in Dera Bugti, One Person Killed

NEWSDESK
DERA BUGTI: A powerful landmine explosion occurred in the Lanjo Sughan area of Dera Bugti, Balochistan. According to rescue sources, one person lost his life on the spot in the blast. The body has been shifted to a nearby hospital, where it will be handed over to the family after legal formalities. Security forces have cordoned off the area and started collecting evidence. It is worth mentioning that several similar landmine blasts in Dera Bugti have claimed many lives in the past. Local residents have urged the government to

launch a clearance operation to make the region safe from hidden landmines and prevent further loss of innocent lives.

BREAKING NEWS

Heavy Rain Alert, Educational Institutions Closed for 5 Days

News Report
MUZAFFARABAD: Due to heavy rains and the risk of flooding in Azad Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, authorities have taken a major decision. All public and private educational institutions in Muzaffarabad and district Bagh will remain closed from August 19 to August 23.

Decision to Close Educational Institutions

According to the Meteorological Department, heavy downpours and landslides are expected in several districts of Azad Kashmir in the coming days. In this context, the district administration of Bagh announced that the safety of students and teaching staff is the top priority, therefore all educational institutions will remain temporarily closed.

Weather Forecast by the Meteorological Department

Azad Kashmir: Heavy rainfall and flash flooding are expected in



Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, Bagh, Haveli, Kotli, Muzpur, and Bhimber. Islamabad & Punjab: Within the next 24 hours, heavy rain is expected in Islamabad, while Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Narowal, and Mandi Bahaudin, among other districts, are at risk of urban flooding. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Landslides are feared in Swat, Buner, Shangla, Dir, Mansehra, Battagram, and Abbottabad, while intermittent thunderstorms and

Affected Districts and Possible Risks

due to heavy rainfall, the chances of landslides, flash flooding, and urban flooding in hilly areas have significantly increased. The Meteorological Department has urged citizens to remain cautious and avoid unnecessary travel.

PRCS actively working to provide immediate relief, assistance to rain, flood-hit people

ISLAMABAD (INP): Emergency response teams of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) are actively working on the ground to provide immediate relief and assistance to communities affected by the ongoing monsoon rain spells, floods, and landslides in different regions of the country.

PRCS Chairperson Mrs Farzana Naek, in a statement on Tuesday, said, "Our emergency response teams have swiftly mobilized to support communities impacted by the ongoing monsoon rains and landslides across the country."

The teams, she said, were working tirelessly in close coordination with the government and district administrations to ensure timely relief and support to the affected population.

The teams were also on alert in areas identified as disas-

ter-prone during the ongoing monsoon rains to ensure timely response and assistance to vulnerable communities, she added.

Mrs Farzana Naek emphasised the PRCS commitment to strengthening coordinated humanitarian response.

Meanwhile, PRCS Secretary General Abaid Ullah Khan chaired the Movement Coordination meeting held at the PRCS National Headquarters.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Movement partners, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, as well as provincial branch representa-

tives from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Merged Areas, and Gilgit Baltistan.

The PRCS swift response during the ongoing monsoon spell was also appreciated by IFRC Secretary General Jagan Chapagain, IFRC Regional Director for Asia Pacific Mr. Alexander Mathieu, and the Netherlands Red Cross via their official social media platforms on X.

"The PRCS NHQ in coordination with respective provincial branches, are continuously monitoring the evolving situation and stands ready to scale up its operations wherever with the facilitation of Movement partners,

government institutions and other stakeholders for strengthening the response and preparedness efforts," a PRCS spokesman said.

Aleema Khan demands justice for imprisoned PTI Leader Imran Khan

RAWALPINDI (INP): Aleema Khan, sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Patron-in-Chief and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, fiercely criticized the ongoing legal battles against her brother, asserting that those responsible for injustice should seek

forgiveness, not Imran Khan. Speaking to the media outside a court in Rawalpindi, Aleema Khan called for transparency in the judicial process, urging authorities to present any relevant footage and allow the courts to decide fairly.

"Present the footage and let the court decide," Aleema Khan stated, expressing hope that judges would find the courage to deliver justice. "If all decisions are to be made by the King, then close the courts," she added, referencing what she perceives as undue influence over the judiciary.

She emphasized that Imran Khan remains resolute, stating, "Those who think Imran Khan will get scared and make a deal, the

Pakistani nation knows him better. He has said bluntly that he will not accept this himself. Imran Khan is in jail not for himself but for the country."

Aleema Khan also raised serious concerns about her brother's safety, alleging that Imran Khan has faced three assassination attempts. She accused authorities of isolating Khan to prevent his messages from reaching the public, noting, "They are so afraid that no message from Imran Khan will come out." Aleema highlighted that the Chief Justice had admitted to not reviewing the case but promised to hear it the following morning.

Noreen Khan, Imran Khan's other sister, echoed Aleema's sentiments, firmly stating that Imran Khan would never apologize. "They want Imran Khan to apologize so that his honor remains. Imran Khan will never apologize. All of them will apologize to Imran Khan," she declared.

Noreen Khan emphasized a belief in div-

ine authority over life and death, asserting, "They believe that life and death are in their hands, but life and death are in the hands of Allah." She called for resilience, noting uncertainty about the lifespan of those inside and outside prison.

Imran Khan's lawyer, Barrister Salman Safdar, also spoke to the media, dismissing suggestions that Khan should apologize. "If a journalist gets up and gives some advice, it should not be given so much importance," Safdar said, adding that he had not considered the idea of an apology.

He criticized the judiciary for creating obstacles for the legal team, stating, "Advocacy has already become very difficult, and these difficulties have been created by the judiciary." Safdar further remarked that he would not entertain unsolicited advice on how to conduct his legal practice, likening it to teaching journalists their craft.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Rotary International Foundation led by President Francesco Arezzo called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz vows to make Pakistan polio-free

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed that the government's health sector team, polio workers, and all relevant institutions were determined to completely eradicate polio from the country.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Rotary International Foundation,

led by President Francesco Arezzo, thanked the organisation for its full cooperation, like other international organizations, in eliminating this deadly disease from Pakistan.

He said that despite challenges, the government was

resolved to secure the future of Pakistan's children through its unwavering commitment and hard work. There are difficulties in eradicating polio, but it is not impossible. The key role of polio workers in polio campaigns is commendable, he remarked.

The members of the delegation praised the government's polio eradication efforts and expressed hope that, with Prime Minister Shehbaz's special focus and leadership, Pakistan would soon be able to eliminate this deadly disease.

Reaffirming Rotary International's commitment to

continue supporting the government in its polio eradication efforts, they said that

the organisation spent \$500 million on polio eradication in Pakistan last year and intended to allocate a substantial amount for this purpose this year as well. The delegation also appreciated the selection of the polio eradication team by the prime minister and the measures taken by that team.

The meeting was attended by Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq, and relevant senior officials.

Pakistan Army rescue teams evacuate 6,903 stranded people in flood-affected areas: ISPR

ISLAMABAD (INP): Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Tuesday said that Pakistan Army rescue teams have successfully evacuated 6,903 stranded individuals and provided medical treatment to 6,304 patients in flood-affected areas.

Briefing the media alongside Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tahir and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, Lt Gen Sharif emphasized that relief and restoration efforts are ongoing, with additional personnel deployed to support communities in crisis.

A total of 585 tonnes of ration have been allocated for flood-hit populations, from Army reserves, as directed by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

Army aviation units are conducting aerial sorties to deliver supplies and evacuate residents from remote regions. Six sorties are scheduled for Tuesday, targeting inaccessible areas. In Buner, Swat, and Shangla, two battalions each have been deployed, while Frontier Corps wings are active in Bajaur and a company in Swabi.

Relief logistics are bolstered by 2,500 tonnes of ready-to-eat rations was available, he said adding that with an additional 5,000

tonnes stocked at the Nowshera base for immediate deployment.

Infrastructure restoration is also underway. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 90 roads were damaged, with 110 critical repair points identified. Nine roads have been fully restored, and partial repairs completed at 86 locations. Jaw Bridge repair is 40 per cent complete and expected to reopen within days. The Karakoram Highway, previously blocked at eight points, has been fully cleared. Restoration work continues at Astore bridges and along the Jiglot-Skardu Road.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, the Engineering Brigade has repaired multiple bridges and is working to reopen roads in Shangla and Buner. The Signal Unit, in coordination with Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation Limited (PTCL), has restored 16 BTS towers to support emergency communications.

Three Army medical units are operating nine medical camps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, having treated over 6,300 patients. Urban search and rescue teams are active in Buner, supported by two medical battalions. Medical teams from Combined Military Hospital and Military Hospital have also been deployed to provide continuous care in Buner, Shangla, and Swat.

Senate told of joint efforts against human smuggling

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate was informed on Tuesday that concentrated and coordinated efforts have been made over the last one year to tackle human smuggling.

Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tahir told the House, during Question Hour, that the Prime Minister has taken notice of the issue of human trafficking and he receives monthly updates on this regard.

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry informed the House that action has also been taken against the FIA officials for their collusion with human smugglers.

He said forty-one FIA officials were dismissed for their involvement in processing passengers related to Greece boat incident. He said criminal proceedings were also initiated against them.

Responding to a question, the Minister of State for Interior said further improvements will be made in the infrastructure of Islamabad Capital Territory. He said both speed and quality will be ensured in the infrastructure projects.

The Senate today passed two resolutions extending the Capital Development Authority Amendment Ordinance 2025 and National Agri-Trade and Food Safety Authority Ordinance, 2025 for a further period of one hundred and twenty days.

The Senate also passed three bills. These included Pakistan Land Port Authority Bill, 2025, The Anti-Terrorism Amendment Bill, 2025 and the Petroleum Amendment Bill, 2025.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan in a meeting with delegation of Turkish Students.

Major terror plan foiled, two officials affiliated with TTP arrested

KOHAT (INP): The district police and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Kohat, in a joint operation, have arrested two important terrorists active for Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

Regional Police Officer (RPO) Kohat Abbas Majeed Marwat, while holding a press conference along with DPO Dr Zahidullah and SP CTD Saadul Khan, said that the arrested suspects were not only facilitators of the banned organization, as well as em-

ployees of security agencies, hatched a conspiracy to target Muharram processions with terrorism.

According to the Regional Police Officer, the investigation of the accused was ongoing and their physical remand for 15 days had been obtained from the court.

A large-scale operation is underway to find the network of the arrested accused and other facilitators. A major tragedy has been averted due to the timely action of the police and CTD.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmed Khan called on Federal Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja.