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Internet Services Partially Restored in Balochistan After Court Orders

Washington Times Hails Asim Munir as 'Man of Steel'

ISLAMABAD WASHINGTON: The Washington Times has praised Pakistan's Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, describing him as a "Man of Steel" and a defining force in South Asia's security and military diplomacy.

The U.S. publication highlighted Munir's resilient leadership qualities, noting that his strategic vision and diplomacy have earned respect from the international community. The feature emphasized his role in countering regional threats from Afghanistan and Iran while calling for decisive action against terrorist organizations.



underlines Pakistan's growing importance in counterterrorism cooperation and signals a renewed phase in U.S.-Pakistan relations.

Potential Strategic Partner for the U.S. in South Asia

According to the Washington Times, "Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir could become President Trump's new strategic partner in South Asia." Analysts suggest this recognition

Strengthening Pakistan-U.S. Counterterrorism Cooperation

The report highlighted recent achievements, including Pakistan's arrest and handover of the Kabul

airport attack mastermind to U.S. authorities — a move seen in Washington as proof of Islamabad's commitment to global security. Former U.S. President Donald Trump also praised Pakistan's role in the fight against terrorism, calling its contribution "critical to regional stability."

Pakistan's Military Diplomacy on the Global Stage

Observers believe that global acknowledgment of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's leadership demonstrates how Pakistan's military diplomacy is reshaping its image as a reliable international partner. Analysts argue that Islamabad's engagement with Washington marks a strategic recalibration, with counterterrorism and security emerging as the cornerstone of future cooperation.

Army chief did not seek apology over May 9, culprits should be held accountable, DG ISPR clarifies

NEWS DESK: Military spokesperson Lieutenant-General Ahmed Shani Chaudhry clarified on Thursday that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir did not seek an apology from anyone over the May 9, 2023 riots, saying the perpetrators should be "held accountable". Geo News reported.

The remarks come days after it was reported that the army chief had sought an apology over the 2023 countrywide protests — apparently from the PTL, which the state holds responsible for the May 9 riots.

Suhail Warraich, a senior editor for the Daily Jang newspaper, wrote in a column on August 16 that COAS Munir had spoken to him in person recently in Belgium's capital of Brussels, where the army chief had stopped over on his return from his visit to the United States.

"On a question about politics, he (the army chief) said that po-



litical reconciliation is possible only if there is a sincere apology," the column read, without specifying who the army chief was referring to or who the question was about.

"Neither did the army chief make any political statement in Brussels, nor did he mention any apology," Geo News quoted Lt-Gen Chaudhry as saying today. Lt-Gen Chaudhry, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) director

general, was speaking to reporters after an event in Islamabad. Those attending the event had their pictures taken with the field marshal, "the DG ISPR noted.

He also termed Pakistan a "country that changes the region's destinies," according to the report. "This is the reason why it is frequently attacked. The youth should understand the legacy and history of their ideological state," he said.

hundreds of people present at the Brussels event. Those attending the event had their pictures taken with the field marshal, "the DG ISPR noted.



PMDC MDCAT 2025: Question Bank Officially Launched

Internet Services Partially Restored in Balochistan After Court Orders

Restored in Balochistan After Court Orders

Quetta: Internet services were restored in several parts of Balochistan on Thursday following the directives of the Balochistan High Court (BHC).



Qaseem Shah: QUETTA: Internet services were restored in several parts of Balochistan on Thursday following the directives of the Balochistan High Court (BHC). The restoration comes after a 15-day suspension that had left users across the province disconnected.

A division bench of the BHC, headed by Chief Justice Rozi Khan Bareech and Justice Sardar Ahmad Naeem, directed the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to immediately restore internet access.

Responding to the court's order, PTA officials assured that services would be fully restored within two hours.

According to initial reports, internet connectivity has returned in areas where no security threats have been identified. Citizens expressed relief and quickly took to social media platforms to share updates about the restoration.

It may be recalled that internet services were suspended on August 6, when the government cited security concerns as the reason for the shutdown.

The court's decision has been widely welcomed by residents, students, journalists, and businesses, who said the disruption had severely impacted education, communication, and trade activities in the province.

Balochistan Tragedy: Honour Killing Claims Life of Woman in Tamboo, Violence in Dera Bugti Leaves Youth Dead

Ayub Bhutto, News Desk:

Tamboo and Dera Bugti, Balochistan — In two separate violent incidents in Balochistan, three people, including a woman, lost their lives, highlighting ongoing local disputes and the scourge of honour-related violence.

In Tamboo, under the jurisdiction of Khan Kor Police Station, a woman and a man were brutally killed in what police sources describe as an alleged honour killing. The authorities immediately took the bodies into their custody and transferred them to a nearby hospital for necessary procedures before handing them over to the families. A case has been registered at the police station, and law enforcement agencies have intensified ef-



orts to apprehend the suspects. Separately, in the Kacchi Canal, Branch No. 13 area under Sui Police Station, Dera Bugti, a violent clash erupted between two

factions of the Bugti Sandrani tribe. During the firing, a young man, identified as Abdul Sattar Sandrani Bugti, was fatally shot on the spot. The Levies Force promptly reached the

scene, restored order, and transferred the deceased to the hospital. Authorities continue to investigate both incidents, emphasizing the urgent need for law and order in the region.

PMDC MDCAT 2025: Question Bank Officially Launched

Syed Muhammad Yaseen

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Mr. Syed Mustafa Kamal, inaugurated the newly developed MDCAT Question Bank at the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) headquarters today.

PM&DC President, Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj, Registrar, warmly welcomed the Minister upon his arrival. Following the inauguration, Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj, Registrar, and the Examination Team delivered a comprehensive presentation on the ongoing preparations for the MDCAT Examination 2025. The briefing outlined the extensive measures being undertaken to ensure transparency, security, and fairness in the conduct of the MDCAT exam.

During the presentation, the Federal Minister was informed by the President that PM&DC's role is limited to registering candidates and providing overall supervision of the MDCAT process. The actual conduct of the examination, including paper setting, administration, and evaluation, is the sole responsibility of the designated public admitting universities. PM&DC clarified that beyond candidate registration and oversight, it does not interfere in operational matters, thereby ensuring impartiality and merit-based admissions.

Mr. Mustafa Kamal attentively reviewed the



briefing and emphasized that no lapses should occur in the upcoming MDCAT examination preparations. He appreciated that the introduction of the new question bank would be instrumental in minimizing errors, enhancing fairness, and strengthening public confidence in the evaluation process.

The Minister was apprised that more than 30 examination venues have been designated nationwide to facilitate candidates and ensure accessibility.

He was also briefed on the deployment of modern digital safeguards to further enhance the security and integrity of the MDCAT process. He also inspected the online registration and monitoring portal, and was informed that 97,028 candidates have already registered till now, with this total, it is expected to reach over 150,000 candidates before the closure of registrations.

Commending PM&DC's efforts, Mr. Mustafa Kamal appreciated the development of a comprehensive question bank based on a common syllabus agreed upon by all provinces and suggested that PM&DC may consider expanding the pool of questions provided to admitting universities to allow greater flexibility in preparing the MDCAT paper.

He further underscored the importance of clearly delegating responsibility to provincial admitting universities, ensuring transparency and accountability at every stage. He added that despite several challenges, Pakistan's education system remains among the best when compared with many other countries. He emphasized that the primary role of PM&DC is to develop and provide a uniform policy for MDCAT, while the actual conduct and management of the exam is the responsibility of the provincial public medical universities. Reaffirming his commitment, Mr. Kamal assured full government support to strengthen PM&DC's institutional capacity, digitalization, and governance reforms. He emphasized that these initiatives are aligned with the government's broader vision of uplifting Pakistan's health and education sectors. The Minister was also briefed on logistical arrangements, provincial coordination, and technology-driven solutions aimed at minimizing errors and ensuring a smooth examination process. Dr. Rizwan Taj reiterated that PM&DC has spared no effort to uphold merit and excellence, implementing reforms that not only strengthen the credibility of MDCAT but also restore public trust in the admissions system.

THE BALUCHISTAN 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 Zahir Ahmed Buledi, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Engineer

Zamarak Khan Chakrazai, and Nonat Muhammad Dumar at the table, there is a genuine opportunity to craft a budget that reflects collective interest rather than individual gains. End of Individual Projects, Focus on Equal Development

Chief Minister Bugti has made it clear: "No room for corruption or nepotism." Only approved, people-centric development projects will be included—no pet schemes, no personal agendas. This approach must ensure that neglected and far-flung areas like Awaran, Washuk, Sherani, and Dera Bugti receive their fair share. For decades, these regions have remained on the margins of development; it's time the budget acknowledges 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.

By Inam Ul Haque:

US and India — strategic autonomy or alliance partnership

This piece attempts to deconstruct the imperatives of Sino-India bilateralism in the backdrop of US-China competition. In my piece, "War of Humiliation" in the South Asia magazine (November 2020), discussing the Sino-Indian escalation in Ladakh, I had concluded that expecting India to stand up to China as a bulwark, that the US continues to prop it, is too far-fetched. That China and India would never — willingly or unwillingly — walk into a full-blown war, that is in nobody's interest.

If anyone expects India to stand up to China — doing the US bidding — in a resurrected Great Game 2.0; then it is not knowing India of Chanakya Kautilya (375-283 BC). The wizard, also called Vishnugupta or the Indian Machiavelli, said "Do not reveal what you have thought of doing... keep it secret because determined to carry it out execution."

Fast forward to 2025, there is a lot of debate nudging India to be in a 'partnership alliance' with the US to counter China, as most analysts in the US/European camp, think India cannot do it alone. Some emphasize that 'strengthening Quad' (Quadrilateral Strategic Dialogue comprising Australia, India, Japan and America) would be a good starting point for New Delhi. Realising that India is a 'hedging' middle power, eager to play both if not all sides, the US think-tanks deduce that transfer of more sophisticated and advanced technology to India would depend upon India's overt anti-Beijing credentials.

The basic premise of such thinking is that a shooting Sino-Indian war is inevitable, and that militarily embroiling China through India is cost effective and makes strategic sense. This is a faulty presumption, just like encouraging Ukraine, a militarily weaker side, to go on the offensive against a militarily stronger Russia that was on the defensive, in the much-touted Ukrainian counter-offensive in 2023, that failed.

The recent chasm in the US-India relations emanate from India profiting from the Russian oil imports, debanking sanctions, Indian protectionism in trade against US agricultural products; Modi's refusal to acknowledge President Trump's role in the May 2025 Pakistan-India ceasefire; and the less than expected taxation by India in the cited conflict.

However, these are transient factors originating from America's 'Trump Factor', who is in his last presidential term. There are compelling reasons for Washington to keep India in its orbit and repair the damaged relations, even if New Delhi is not very forthcoming.

First, in the US strategic construct, China, Iran, North Korea and Russia make a substantial authoritative scale (mass of alliance power) presenting a unified challenge, needing a unified response. Moreover, China under President Xi has moved away from its confrontational 'wolf warrior' diplomacy, with emerging profile in the Global South, Africa in particular. Its BRI networks 126 countries through highways, railways, pipelines, power

plants, grids, IT, social welfare and poverty alleviation projects. BRI's staggering investment of over \$1.3 trillion will ultimately cover 60% of the world population and 40% of its GDP, providing a viable economic alternative, catapulting the present US-led predatory economic system.

Second, America's inability to compete with China in the 21st century requires 'strategic diplomacy', some US analysts emphasise. Its core purpose being cultivating favourable balances of power in critical regions to project power far beyond material means. Strategic diplomacy aims to limit rival's options, without seeking to remove the sources of conflict. The US is moving past the age of 'globalized utopia', of being the single-most powerful hegemon, enjoying comprehensive security enabled by technological capabilities. It gravitates towards alliance partnerships and strategic diplomacy. And under its pivot to Asia' strategy, building the largest anti-China coalition, India stands out to bridge the gap between Washington's rhetoric and capabilities.

US analysts feel Biden Administration was unable to properly cultivate New Delhi against Beijing. They feel Trump should nudge India closer 'as an ally on the level of Japan or NATO partners'.

Will India do the US bidding willingly, under coercion or under inducements? The straight answer is no, under any conditions. Way back in a meeting with the US officials, when asked to analyse the US-India potential relationship, my answer was to 'go ahead and find out'.

However, much that India will drag its feet on becoming involved in bloc politics, alliance partnership with the US, and ignore its 'strategic autonomy', Washington will persistently deploy the pressure-inducement combo to rope in New Delhi against China.

Even if that means making India, as some suggest, a regional policeman and hegemon in South Asia, deferring to its advice and actions concerning other countries like Pakistan. Other countries like Pakistan, Australia in Pacific Islands, Vietnam in continental Southeast Asia and Nigeria in Africa.

Expecting India to go against one of its largest trading partners (despite an otherwise obscure border conflict), is not understanding geo-economics and history. First, Sino-India annual trade is over \$100 for the third consecutive year. It was \$124 billion for FY2024. Second, India has historically conceded against formidable adversaries, from Afghans to Moghuls to Portuguese to the British. That historic constant has not changed, Modi or no Modi.

Third, militarily, Indian discussions concede China's conventional and nuclear advantage. India responds to this "conventional asymmetry" through infrastructural build-up, force modernisation and new raisings, compared to Beijing's better military infrastructure, capabilities, and logistics.

Pakistanis under rubble: here and there

Pakistan, born against many odds, has survived despite incompressible antagonisms over seventy-eight years of independence — no trifling triumph. Those who enabled this survival were mostly gunnam sipahi (unsung soldiers) or people who faced frightful fates. Although the country has changed, with East Pakistan no longer hers and Karachi no longer her capital, Pakistan continues to make strides in many fields, from fashion and entertainment to nuclear capability.

Marka-e-Haq (battle of truth) heightens the joy of this year's 14th August. Pakistan's ability to create memes in the middle of a war is admirable, but as a medical doctor I get concerned too.

TV channels have convinced us that all of us are equal, and even the masses who continue to suffer (perhaps without realisation) from the impact of social injustices, erased histories and moral bankruptcy, celebrate jashn. Sadly, Nature has its own laws.

The criminal segment of the elite segment of civil society who cannot give beyond fancy titles and slogans and apple-polishing those in power to secure a slot in foreign trips, and the criminal negligence of successive governments in responding to the impact of climate change, are taking their toll.

While I write these lines, Buner is facing a catastrophe, and so are many other areas of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, while the flood affectees of Sindh have been reduced to passive recipients of a housing scheme that should have been their right in the first place. I am deliberately avoiding statistics related to the human face of such crises, because apparently millions of out-of-school children, people living below the poverty line, and the scale of bureaucratic complacency have rarely made anybody feel guilty.

By Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen:

Dispute resolution: China-led IOMed comes into being

On May 30, 2025, the international legal landscape experienced a quiet yet potentially transformative shift. The International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) was officially established through a signing ceremony held in Hong Kong, with representatives from 85 nations across Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe participating in the event. During this ceremony, 33 countries, including Pakistan, signed the convention, thereby becoming founding signatory members.

This insight examines the workings and objectives of IOMed to evaluate its geopolitical importance and the implications of this new forum for countries such as Pakistan. IOMed is the first intergovernmental organisation exclusively dedicated to the resolution of disputes through mediation. Currently, it concentrates on the peaceful resolution of three categories of disputes:

state-to-state disputes; disputes between states and private entities; and commercial disagreements among and between parties.

IOMed operates on principles such as respect for state sovereignty, equality, impartiality, non-interference in internal affairs, the rule of law and effectiveness.

By Maham Ayaz:

The Dilemma of Artificial Intelligence (AI) weapons

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

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

of world politics were subjected to heavy Trumpian Strain in the recent past when the competition of naked power showed its ugliness in international relations.

The Genesis of warfare The history of warfare is as old as the human race. The Book of Genesis states that Cain killed Abel to satiate his vengeance.

Ever since vengeance, confrontation and belligerence have remained more pervasive than cooperation and goodwill in human relations. The perception of life as a zero-sum game breeds selfishness and consequent animosity

between individuals, groups, or states. Instincts of survival and procreation are reflexive thus natural for all living organisms including us humans.

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

Caine, who may have used a sharp stone, a strong branch of a tree, or simple brute force to strangle Abel, would be flabbergasted if he were to visit our times. The civilization we live in today took centuries over centuries to materialize. The use of electromagnetic spectrum was considered a game-changer.

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Floods and politics

How turning these calamities into opportunities for political point-scoring has backfired spectacularly. When Punjab was inundated in July, for instance, PTL lawmakers in the provincial assembly held what they called a "people's assembly" meeting up before us, protesting the building in protest against the suspension of their colleagues. So far so good. Politics and theatre are cousins after all.

But some among them took the opportunity to skewer the provincial government for the rain-related devastation in the province. Three among them were named in a report carried by this newspaper, and by their criticism of the government of Maryam Nawaz took aim at the floods caused by the rains. Crops and farmland were destroyed, they shouted, homes caved in, and "development projects" showcased by the Punjab government were "washed away". Yet the government "remains indifferent", according to the report.

By Khurram Hussain:

A peace deal to heaven

most serious security threat to the entire West and has united Europe more than at any other time in history.

America, too, was one of the largest suppliers of arms to Ukraine before Trump broke away from the ranks, hugely weakening the anti-Russian alliance.

By Zahid Hussain:

Blame game

abroad, under the names of relatives or through real estate projects. The Porti-guese Golden Visa programme has certainly had its share of Pakistani applicants — not just bureaucrats but also businessmen, politicians and others who understand that visas are the new currency of certainty in an uncertain country.

And yet, amid all the noise made by the judge, jury and executioner in his mind, as evident on social media, the question lingers: was he entirely wrong?

The honest response, if one is willing to listen past the noise, would be not entirely. There are indeed some in public service who have allegedly amassed wealth that their payrolls cannot explain. Some are believed to have quietly invested

dragged the bureaucratic community — already low on morale — into the spotlight. In a profession where accusations tend to stick longer than promotions, being tarred with the same brush as a few shady fellow bureaucrats is no small matter. Particularly not when it is away Federal ministers throwing their own team under the bus is nothing new in Pakistan. Something similar was witnessed in 2020 by the then aviation minister, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, when he alleged that over 150 pilots of the national flag carrier had fake licences. This disclosure — later found to be inaccurate — resulted in a ban on PIA's flying destinations in Europe, which took a long time to be lifted.

Mr Asif's recent post has unnecessarily

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But resolving one of the largest conflicts to have occurred in recent years may not be as easy as Trump thinks.

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Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal unveils results of digital economic census

ISLAMABAD, Aug 21 (INP). Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has unveiled results of the country's first digital economic census, describing it as an important milestone to achieve the socio-economic targets.

Sharing details of the economic census at a ceremony organized by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in Islamabad, he stated that this census will provide a foundation for scientific economic planning, which can lead to a transformative impact on policymaking, investment, employment, financial resource allocation and social services. He expressed confidence that by effectively

utilizing this data, the country's economy can achieve significant growth.

Appreciating the work of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and other relevant officials, the Minister for Planning stated that forty million buildings were geotagged during the census, revealing that 7.2 million entities are engaged in economic activities. He mentioned that every entity has been recorded with an industrial code in order to ensure decisions on scientific basis.

Ahsan Iqbal said that this economic census also brings to fore the economic activities taking place at the do-verse and survey will provide us an opportunity

engaged in economic activities or operating minor businesses. He said this information will help us to further empower the women.

The Minister for Planning said that out of 7.2 million entities, 2.7 million are associated with retail business and one hundred and eighty eight thousand were contributing to the production while there are six hundred and forty three thousand small production units.

Ahsan Iqbal said the economic survey will provide us an opportunity

to bring the non-formal sector into the mainstream.

The Minister for Planning said that this census also provides us valuable information about the social sector. He said there are two hundred and forty two thousand schools and over thirty six thousand Madaris across the country.

Additionally, there are 11,568 colleges and 214 universities. The number of health facilities stands at one hundred and nineteen thousand, while the number of places of worship exceeds six hundred thousand. He said this information will help us improve service delivery and ensure good governance.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Poland Macej Pisarski called on the Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain.

Ecology and Green Development of great importance for Pakistan: Experts

ISLAMABAD (INP). "The importance of ecology and green development to Pakistan cannot be overemphasized," said Prof. Ahd Ali, from Shenyang Normal University while talking to China Economic Net (CEN). A remarkable chapter in China-Pakistan academic and research cooperation has been written by the Pakistani scientist and educator, who has dedicated over a decade in building bridges between the two nations. Dr. Ahd Ali, currently serving as Professor and International Coordinator at the College of Life Sciences, Shenyang Normal University (SYNU), is a leading "historical initiative" that will bring 720 Pakistani students to the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), Women University Multan (WUM), and Bahauddin

Zakariya University (BZU) Multan, to China for a "fully funded three-month Summer Training Camp" on "Ecology and Green Development", scheduled from September 16 to December 14, 2025. This milestone is the latest achievement in Prof. Ali's journey, which began with his PhD at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in 2010. Since then, he has served in various academic, research and leadership roles in both China and Pakistan, most notably as "Tenured Associate Professor at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF)" from "March 2016. He played a pivotal role in establishing "three Joint Research Laboratories" between Pakistan and China, with a focus on "Ecosystem Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation".

Protection?" and "Agriculture and Sustainability".

He was also the driving force behind the "first-ever Online Chinese Language Program" between "Shenyang Normal University" and "Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan", and serves as a focal person. Success of language program is the key in bridging the green development and ecosystem sustainability in BRI countries. The program is fully funded by the "Government of China" and aims to build capacity in "ecology, environmental conservation, and green development".

This initiative underscores the deepening ties between China and Pakistan in the fields of "education, research, and sustainable development", and serves as a model for future academic collaborations.

leagues who supported me, and the students who believed in this vision.

And this training is only possible because of the great support offered by leadership of Shenyang Normal University, particularly the Dean-College of Life Science and Office International Exchange and Cooperation.

This is one of the most historic cooperative efforts between our universities, and I am proud to be part of it," said Prof. Ali. The training will include lectures, fieldwork, lab-based learning, and cultural exchange, offering participants a comprehensive and immersive experience.

This initiative underscores the deepening ties between China and Pakistan in the fields of "education, research, and sustainable development", and serves as a model for future academic collaborations.

Pakistan buried India's false narrative of regional dominance, says Dar

LONDON (INP). Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar said Pakistan had buried the false narrative propagated by the Indian media and government about its so-called hegemony and portrayal of India as the "net security provider" of the region.

Addressing a press conference in London after his official visit to the United Kingdom, and broadcast live on national TV channels, he said Pakistan had emerged victorious in its recent armed conflict with India, triggered by unprovoked Indian aggression.

"The Indian media and bureaucracy have

acknowledged that their narrative proved unsuccessful. On the other hand, Pakistan's narrative was based on facts and truth, which was acknowledged by the world," he added.

Dar said that after air superiority, Pakistan also settled scores with India on the ground.

He said Pakistan always stood for the respect, dignity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the region and desired from others to do the same. Termining Indian aggression as "unfortunate, he advised them to accept the defeat and move forward."

He said that no one should tell Pakistan to broker a ceasefire; rather,

as they were "the biggest victim of terrorism, Pakistan had fought the global war of terrorism, on the front foot and sacrificed 90,000 lives besides suffering colossal losses to the tune of \$192 billion in that war, he said, stressing that the world had to recognize these sacrifices, Pakistan had rendered huge sacrifices, and the country during former premier Nawaz Sharif's tenure.

He said during the year 2014, terrorism had been eliminated from the country during former premier Nawaz Sharif's tenure.

About their official visits to various countries, he said their efforts were aimed at projecting Pakistan's candid stance on various issues, including the scourge of terrorism.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement issued in Srinagar said India cannot suppress the freedom sentiment of the Kashmiri people through illegal detentions, arrests, and harassment.

The APHC spokesman said thousands of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders, activists, and youth, including APHC Chairman Masarat Alam Butt, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Aasiya Andrabi, Ayaz Akbar, Shahid-ul-Islam, Merajuddin Kalwal, Peer Saifullah, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Fahmeeda Sofi, Nabehda Nasreen, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom, Mushtaq Islam, Molvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani, Bilal Siddiq, Ameer Hamza, Mohammad Rafiq Ganai, Zafar Akbar Butt, Mohammad Hayat Bhat, Mehjabin Nanda, Abdul Ahmad Parra.



QUETTA: Chief Justice of the High Court of Balochistan Justice Rozi Khan Barrech is being presented with the shield by Secretary Forests and Wildlife Department Abdul Fatch Bangar.



ISLAMABAD: A group of Students and Faculty from Dopasi Foundation calling on Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani.

Fatehpur tomb clash reflection of communal violence and state failure

ISLAMABAD (INP). The violent conflict over a tomb in Fatehpur's Abu Nagar region, Uttar Pradesh state of India, highlights communal tensions and the failure of authorities to protect minorities and uphold justice.

The violent clash over a tomb in Fatehpur's Abu Nagar region is more than a localized dispute—it exposes systemic failures in India's protection of minority rights and public order. The communal violence, which rapidly escalated between Muslims and RSS-associated groups, reveals troubling patterns of state bias and inadequate law enforcement.

This incident sharply illustrates how Hindu nationalist extremism exploits cultural and religious sensitivities to foment division, while the authorities' partisan inaction intensifies insecurity for minorities.

The public outrage over the state's inability—or unwillingness—to bring perpetrators to justice, undermining the rule of law. International human rights frameworks

stress the state's responsibility to prevent such outbreaks and protect vulnerable populations, yet India's response here has been widely criticized as insufficient.

This clash exemplifies a broader crisis facing India's pluralistic society, raising urgent questions about accountability, the politicization of law enforcement, and the protection of minority interests under sustained communal threats.

It is to be mentioned that members of a Hindu organisation vandalised Nawab Abdus Samad's tomb in Fatehpur district, Uttar Pradesh, claiming it was

built on top of a temple. The controversy erupted after BJP district president Mukhlal Pal and Math Mandir Sanrakshan Sangharsh Samiti claimed the tomb was a thousand-year-old temple of Thakurji and Lord Shiva, built on top of a temple.

Authorities deployed heavy police and other forces and erected barricades as a video shows people carrying saffron flags and chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' around the tomb.

Responding to the vandalism, Mo Naseem, National Secretary of the National Ulama Council, condemned it as an attempt to distort history and warned of protests

Chinese Company uses AI and Beidou Navigation to reclaim millions of acres

ISLAMABAD (INP). Facing the global challenge of desertification, M-Grass Ecology Group, China's leading grass seed technology company, has launched an ecological restoration solution centered on smart equipment and innovative seed technologies.

The company's self-developed seed sowing robots, customized seed products, and intelligent management systems are poised to offer sustainable restoration methods for countries along the Belt and Road, including Central Asia and the Middle East.

China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. Seed ropes and

Beidou navigation for precise desert restoration. Chen Ruijie, Vice President of M-Grass, says manual efforts simply can't keep up in vast, sparsely populated, and remote areas with limited connectivity.

Using Beidou satellite navigation and AI algorithms, the company developed intelligent sowing equipment capable of planning its own paths. "Through remote sensing and visual recognition, the system can automatically identify areas with sparse vegetation and adjust sowing accordingly, greatly improving efficiency and reducing costs," Chen explained.

M-Grass is the only publicly listed grass seed company in China and

ranks fourth globally for innovation in the sector. It has restored nearly 5.45 million acres of degraded grasslands, deserts, and saline-alkali lands. Beyond seed ropes, the company has developed seed packets, seed blocks, and customized products, creating a scalable, mechanized, and intelligent restoration system.

Desertification remains a critical concern worldwide. In Pakistan, for example, deserts cover roughly 118,000 square kilometers, nearly 15% of the country. Chen also revealed that M-Grass established an overseas division in March this year to expand international operations.

The company is actively participating in the China-Mongolia-Russia economic corridor and targeting Central Asia, the Middle East, and other regions.

"Our goal is to export the 'eco-package'—including technology systems, product standards, and smart equipment—to regions in need of ecological restoration, contributing to global sustainable development," Chen said.

M-Grass's integrated system has already been applied on a large scale to degraded grasslands, saline-alkali lands, and lightly to moderately sandy soils, providing technological support for challenging environments, including high-altitude and arid regions.



RAWALPINDI: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj at Ministry of Defence Production.

APHC seeks UN intervention for release of Kashmiri detainees

SRINAGAR (INP). The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has appealed to the United Nations and international human rights organizations to put pressure on India to release all Kashmiri political detainees, including Hurriyat leadership, who are stuffed under inhuman conditions in jails of India and the occupied territory.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement issued in Srinagar said India cannot suppress the freedom sentiment of the Kashmiri people through illegal detentions, arrests, and harassment.

The APHC spokesman said thousands of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders, activists, and youth, including APHC Chairman Masarat Alam Butt, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Aasiya Andrabi, Ayaz Akbar, Shahid-ul-Islam, Merajuddin Kalwal, Peer Saifullah, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Fahmeeda Sofi, Nabehda Nasreen, Dr Hameed Fayaz, Advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom, Mushtaq Islam, Molvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani, Bilal Siddiq, Ameer Hamza, Mohammad Rafiq Ganai, Zafar Akbar Butt, Mohammad Hayat Bhat, Mehjabin Nanda, Abdul Ahmad Parra.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Transport department invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. Bid Security 2% for each work

S.No.	Description	Submission time	Opening time
1	Supply of Handred (100) Pink E-Scooters	12:00 pm	12:15 pm
2	Supply of Handred (100) Pink Van TSE-25260809431	12:15 pm	12:30 pm
3	Supply of Handred (100) Blue Van TSE-25260809431	12:30 pm	12:45 pm
4	Supply of Handred (100) Electric Bicycles TSE-25260809421	12:45 pm	01:00 pm

Procurement Rules - 2014, Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity in Previous 3 Years Turnover (amount mentioned in Bidding documents) in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List (Form 3a Certificate). The bidding time must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned or SIPRA website. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NT to 8 September, 2025 during office hours on working days or can be downloaded from SIPRA website. Last Date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 8 September, 2025

Phone no: 05192037576 Fax no: 92037574 Email: Sogp011941@gmail.com

PRO NO.739/21-4-2025

Chief Secretary TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Teaching college at Pak-China Friendship Hospital in the pipeline

ISLAMABAD (INP). Teaching college at Pak-China Friendship Hospital, Gwadar is in the pipeline, according to Gwadar Pro.

The Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Noor ul Haq Baloch has formally forwarded a proposal to the Chinese government to upgrade the status of the China-aided Hospital into a teaching hospital with allied facilities under CPEC Phase II.

The proposal reveals that the next phase of Pak-China Friendship Hospital will include teaching hospital, nursing training centre, medical blocks, medical college, central laboratory, and other allied facilities. Given the details of the proposal, teaching hospital and the other allied facilities at Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar will have an estimated cost of around \$100 million.

It will combine medical education, research, and patient care in a dynamic environment where the next generation of medical providers will be trained. In China-Pakistan Friendship Teaching Hospital, practitioners-in-training will gain experience in a real patient-care environment where they will be under the direct supervision of practicing physicians.

Other medical professionals who may participate in training programs at the teaching hospital will include nursing students, physician assistant students, physician, infectious, diabetic, and hypertension conditions.

At a teaching hospital patients have the advantage of being cared for by physicians at various levels. It will also have research programs so that newer techniques, medications and other treatments can be available for patients in Gwadar," a GPA official told Gwadar Pro.

Under CPEC Phase I, the state-of-the-art Pak-China Friendship Hospital was completed in May 2024 with financing from the Chinese government.

It is equipped with 150 beds with dynamically functional Out Patient Department (OPD). Spreading over 68 acres of land, it is providing free health services to the patients with gynecological, orthopedic, neurological, gastroenterological, cancer, renal, pediatric, infectious, diabetic, and hypertension conditions.

A 100% paperless environment has been made possible for inclusive convenience, ease and comfort, preventing the illiterate people of coastal communities from being caught up in lengthy and tedious procedures.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishtiaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi addressing a joint press statement at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Power outages persists as Karachi gears for more rain

KARACHI (INP). Residents of Karachi braced for another spell of torrential rain on Thursday with schools shut and public hospitals operating on minimal staff.

Most offices remained shut barring essential services, with the provincial government urging citizens to avoid commuting and stay home. Power outages continued in various areas of the city.

Over 10 people have died in rain-related incidents. Most were deaths by electrocution, while at least one person fell into an open manhole. A case has been registered at Shah Faisal Colony Police Station against K-Electric CEO, KE IBC Shah Faisal and other officers of the power utility over the electrocution deaths of two brothers.

The FIR, filed on behalf of the deceased's father, Sultan, states the younger brother, Siraj, was electrocuted by an underground high-tension cable, when he went out to buy groceries. The older brother, Murad, tried to save Siraj and was electrocuted in the process. Passby managed to get the brothers off the submerged road but Siraj had died on the spot. Murad was shifted to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), where he succumbed to his injuries. Sultan has sought complete legal action against KE's negligence in the FIR registered under Sections 322

[pertaining to murder without intention to cause harm] and 268 [causing public nuisance].

Despite the gaps in rainfall, power outages across the city persist. Residents in different areas of the city, including North Nazimabad Block A, Gulistan-e-Jahur Block 9 and Safra Goth Scheme 33, have been without electricity for over 36 hours with power shut from the first spell of rain on Monday afternoon.

In other localities, including several phases of Defence Housing Authority and Stadium Road, complained about continued power disruption well into Tuesday night.

In Saddabad, Ghazi Goth, Khuda Ki Basti, Ibrahim Hyderi and Shanti Nagar Stadium Road, power had not been restored for 28 hours while in Federal B Area Block 14, Nank Wara, Yousuf Goth, Ramsawni, Kearnari and Azam Basti, residents were without electricity for over 22 hours.

The next round of scattered showers is expected to hit this afternoon, which the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has warned could be heavier than yesterday. This spate of rain is expected to last till Friday.

On Tuesday, Karachiites woke up to a sunny morning which was overcast by 2pm and within minutes heavy rainfall hit several

areas of the city. The torrential downpour lasted for a few hours submerging major thoroughfares and flooding low-lying areas of the metropolis. Rain continued again post sundown and lasted well into the night.

PMD's forecast for today follows a similar pattern. Strong winds are circulating the rainfall system, said Chief Meteorologist Aamir Haider Laghari explaining gusts that hit last night along with rain. Today, there might be gusts stronger than usual, he added.

The monsoon system is expected to start weakening late tonight and likely to gradually dissipate by Friday morning, according to Laghari. The skies are expected to remain mostly cloudy on Friday and Saturday, and partly cloudy conditions are forecast for Sunday and Monday. Mild weather conditions are expected to prevail for the next few days under the effects of the monsoon system. According to PMD, a low-pressure system remains highly active, with thunderstorms, strong winds, and heavy rain expected across Sindh, particularly in Karachi, from the afternoon through the evening and night.

Temperatures are likely to range between 28°C at the minimum and 31°C at maximum, with high humidity causing significant discomfort.

Electrocution also proved deadly, claiming six lives across Shah Faisal Colony, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Defence, North Karachi, and Gizri. Sources confirmed that electricity supply remained suspended in many areas, as over 100 feeders were out of order.

Yesterday, 24NewsHD reported that torrential downpours had severely affected areas including Shahrah-e-Faisal, PECHS, Saddar, Shah Faisal, Sindh Muslim Society, Bizzera Lines, Tariq Road, Frere Hall, Jinnah Hospital, Gulistan-e-Johar, and the airport vicinity.

Rainwater quickly accumulated on major roads, paralysing traffic and leaving many commuters stranded. The Nazimabad Underpass was submerged, while countless citizens were forced to abandon their vehicles and return home on foot.



LAHORE: Rear Admiral Jawad Ahmed handed over command scroll of newly appointed Commander, Central Punjab (COMCEP) Commodore Sohail Ahmad Azmi during the Change of Command ceremony was held at Naval Complex Walton, Lahore.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the inaugural ceremony of the Business Facilitation Centre.

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz opens first-ever business facilitation centre

ISLAMABAD (INP) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday inaugurated the first-ever Business Facilitation Center (BFC) here with a vision to promote ease of doing business and attract investment in Pakistan by providing a one-stop solution to investors and entrepreneurs.

Established by the Board of Investment, the BFC will facilitate the business community by providing the investors' guidance, including guidance on regulatory requirements and facilitating business registration, licensing, and permits.

It will serve as a one-stop service, reducing hurdles and facilitating efficient interaction between businesses and government entities.

The prime minister, who was briefed on the center's functioning, including the investors' guidance, application for special economic zones, licensing and payments procedures with drastically reduced timelines, also unveiled the plaque of the project, vowing

to replicate it across the country if it fulfills the desired objectives. He thanked the Minister for Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Secretary BOI, and their team for establishing the country's first-ever facilitation center and particularly for recruiting a highly talented and competent workforce who were engaged in dealing with customers as the prime minister spoke to the gathering.

The prime minister urged all the relevant departments to efficiently run the center to make it a success by facilitating and guiding the investors or people from other sectors, just like other countries.

"Otherwise, this will be nothing more than brick and mortar. That is not my vision... We should welcome customers with a smiling face combined with genuine support without any delay, not even for a second," he advised.

Prime Minister Shehbaz called for making the facilitation

center attractive and popular in other countries and establishing it as a model, paving the way for its replication in other parts of the country.

In his remarks, BOI Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh called the establishment of the center a breakthrough in investment facilitation.

He said that earlier, the investors had to visit various departments to accomplish the required procedures for setting up their businesses; however, the BFC will reduce this hassle, besides remarkably reducing the timelines.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who also visited different desks of the facilitation center, was told that the investors would be able to submit their applications for setting up special economic zones or other projects at the center, by answering different queries such as the nature of the business, loan and equity structure, target market, export potential, expected employment generation, and utility requirements.

NA speaker pays homage to civilians, security forces on Terror Victims' Day

ISLAMABAD (INP). National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday said that the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism serves as a solemn occasion to honour the innocent civilians and valiant security personnel who have laid down their lives in the fight against terrorism.

In his message, the Speaker paid heartfelt tribute to the martyrs, law enforcement agencies and frontline defenders whose sacrifices have fortified the nation's resolve to uphold peace and security.

He said the pain and suffering of families affected by terrorism remain deeply etched in the national conscience.

Highlighting Pakistan's two-decade-long struggle against terrorism, the Speaker noted that over 80,000 civilians, military personnel, and law enforcement officers have embraced martyrdom. He added

that many political and religious leaders have also fallen victim to the scourge, underscoring its indiscriminate nature.

The prolonged conflict, he said, has inflicted economic losses worth billions of Dollars, severely impacting national development and public welfare. The Speaker stated that India-backed terrorists continue to hatch conspiracies aimed at subverting peace and progress in Pakistan. Despite these hostile designs, he affirmed, the Pakistani nation has consistently responded with courage, resilience, and unity. He lauded the unparalleled sacrifices of the country's security forces and law enforcement agencies, noting that initiatives under the National Action Plan, along with counter-terrorism narratives and socio-economic reforms, have significantly weakened extremist networks.

Reiterating unwavering solidarity with the families of terror victims, the Speaker

said the sacrifices of the martyrs will forever remain a proud chapter in the nation's history. He pledged that the fight against terrorism will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated.

Calling terrorism a global challenge, the Speaker emphasized the need for unified international efforts to eradicate it. He said sustainable peace can only be achieved through collective resolve and cooperation among nations.

Expressing concern over the plight of oppressed communities, the Speaker said the people of Palestine and occupied Kashmir continue to suffer under terrorism. He described the ongoing Israeli aggression in Palestine as a grave test of global conscience, with thousands falling victim to targeted violence. He urged the international community to take decisive action to end terrorism in both regions and uphold justice, human rights, and lasting peace.



DHAKA: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan presenting a souvenir to Bangladesh Advisor for Industries Adilur Rehman Khan.

NHA announces open auction for toll plazas on key highways

ISLAMABAD (INP). The National Highway Authority (NHA), has officially announced an open auction for the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contracts of 21 toll plazas across the national highways, says in media reports.

The bid opening for the period ending June 30, 2026, and will be conducted under the supervision of the Finance Wing (Revenue Directorate) of the NHA, said a notification issued on other day.

The interested bidders, including individuals, firms, and companies are invited to participate in the process, subject to meeting specific eligibility criteria. These include holding a valid NTN certificate as an active taxpayer, having no outstanding dues (installments or taxes), and

not being blacklisted or under arbitration proceedings with any government agency.

The list of toll plazas up for auction includes key locations such as Mitari (N-5), Ahmedpur East (N-5), Tarhadda (N-130), Shaheed Benazir Bridge, and Sangiani (ETTM) M-15. Each site carries a specified Earnest Money and Net Reserve Price per month, ranging from Rs. 478,500 to over Rs. 46 million. Among them, Sangiani has the highest net reserve price, set at Rs155,50,000 per month.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) documents were available free of cost on the official NHA website. A pre-auction meeting is scheduled today, at 11:00 AM at the NHA Headquarters auditorium.

The bidder registration will begin the same day and continue until September 3, 2025, at the Revenue Section, NHA HQ, Islamabad. The open auction itself will be held on September 4, 2025, starting at 11:00 AM.

The NHA has made it clear that bids lower than the specified net reserve prices will not be considered.

Successful bidders will be obligated to fulfill all relevant tax obligations under the applicable law and sign contracts only after clearing all dues with the NHA.

This open auction offers a substantial opportunity for the private sector to participate in the operation and toll collection of some of country's busiest and most strategic highway locations.