

QUETTA VOICE

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CTD Arrests Close Aide of Dr. Usman Qazi in Major Operation in Balochistan

Balochistan CM, British High Commissioner Discuss Climate Fund, Youth Empowerment and Governance Reforms



NEWS DESK: ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti met with the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott, in Islamabad on Friday. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation, tackling the impacts of climate change, improving governance, enhancing law and order, and introducing reforms in education and healthcare. Highlighting climate challenges, the Chief Minister said that Balochistan has launched its first-ever Climate Fund to deal

with natural disasters and environmental protection. He stressed that transparency and governance remain top priorities, adding that the province saved Rs. 14 billion last fiscal year by reducing non-development expenditures. On the education front, CM Bugti said the Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program is providing quality education opportunities to students across the province. The initiative also includes the children of civilian martyrs, transgender persons,

minorities, and underprivileged groups to ensure equal access to education. To support youth economic empowerment, the provincial government, in collaboration with Akhuwat, is launching an interest-free loan scheme. He further shared that 16,000 teachers have been recruited purely on merit, while reforms in health and education departments are underway to improve service delivery. For the first time in Balochistan's history, a Youth Policy has been introduced. Under the Chief Minister

Youth Skills Development Program, 30,000 young people will receive vocational training, with many expected to secure jobs abroad. High Commissioner Jane Marriott praised the provincial government's reform agenda, describing efforts in governance, education, health, and youth development as "commendable." The two sides also agreed to enhance cooperation in multiple sectors, including training support for the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Police to boost professional capacity.



China's Foreign Minister Wang, COAS Munir discuss regional security and counter-terrorism

Lasbela: Deadly Road Accident Claims 9 Lives on N-25 Near Uthal

From Our Correspondent:

LASBELA, BALOCHISTAN: At least nine people were killed and two others sustained serious injuries in a tragic road accident on the N-25 Highway near Abu Hotel, Uthal early Friday morning.



According to MERC 1122 (Medical Emergency Response Center), the accident occurred around 6:00 AM when two pickup vehicles and a passenger coach collided due to over-speeding. Following an emergency call received at the Central Command and Control MERC 1122, medical response teams immediately rushed to

the site. The rescue officials confirmed that nine passengers died on the spot, while the injured were given first aid and shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Uthal

via MERC 1122 ambulances. Authorities have urged motorists to exercise caution while traveling on the N-25 (National Highway), which

has witnessed several fatal accidents in recent months. For any emergency, citizens are advised to call MERC 1122 for immediate assistance.

CTD Arrests Close Aide of Dr. Usman Qazi in Major Operation in Balochistan

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) has carried out a significant operation, arresting Mir Khan Muhammad, a close aide of Dr. Usman Qazi.

Security experts believe the arrest marks a breakthrough in ongoing counter-terrorism efforts in Balochistan, as Dr. Usman Qazi and his associates have long

been on the radar of law enforcement agencies. Authorities have assured that further updates will be shared as the investigation progresses.

CTD officials have already initiated a detailed interrogation to identify his wider network and possible connections with militant groups.

According to official sources, Mir Khan Muhammad obtained a law degree from the International Islamic University before serving as a prosecutor in Balochistan. His professional background, authorities say, provided him with cover for his alleged involvement in unlawful activities.



Investigators revealed that the suspect has confessed to being involved in more than a dozen criminal operations.

PM Shehbaz to call meeting on illegal constructions on rivers soon

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that he will convene a meeting over the illegal constructions on rivers soon, as monsoon rains caused catastrophic floods in northern parts of the country.

Record rains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which started on August 15, have wreaked havoc on different parts of the province. Last week, the provincial government declared an emergency as torrential rains rav-

aged homes, displaced families, and left a trail of destruction across Buner, Swat, Shangla, Manshera, and beyond with the death toll at 393.

Speaking during a federal cabinet meeting today, PM Shehbaz said, "I will call a meeting over the illegal constructions on rivers, such as hotels, restaurants and houses." He highlighted the concerns over such structures, which reflected "catastrophic beauty", and over the cutting of trees in

Galiyat, where plazas and houses have been constructed. "There is no room for man-made disasters," he said, adding that the meeting will be called on an all-Pakistan basis to discuss these issues.

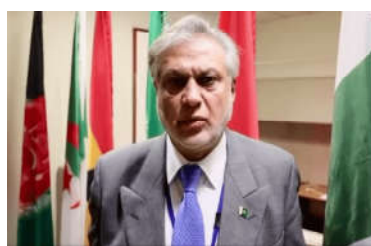
The premier discussed the relief and rehabilitation work in the flood-affected areas during the meeting, saying that the federal government has extended "full cooperation" to the provincial governments.

He mentioned his visit to flood-affected areas in Gilgit-Balistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the efforts of ministers and secretaries. He said, "This is a collective responsibility."

Radio Pakistan reported.

Pakistan did not request anyone to make India sit down for talks: FM Dar

NEWS DESK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday said that Pakistan had not requested anyone to make India sit down for talks of any kind. "Pakistan did not ask anyone to arrange talks with India. Pakistan is ready for comprehensive talks with India, including on the Kashmir issue," he told journalists at Parliament House.



Talking about the May conflict between the two countries and the subsequent ceasefire, he said the latter was still underway. The military confrontation between India and Pakistan came in May as the former, without evidence, linked the Pahalgaon attack to Islamabad, which strongly denied the allegations. Talking about the halt in hostilities, Dar

launched a series of airstrikes on Pakistan, killing at least 40 civilians. Both sides then exchanged missiles, which stretched over the week before a US-brokered ceasefire had both sides agree to stop the hostilities. Talking about the halt in hostilities, Dar

said: "India had requested the US for a ceasefire. I received a call from the US for a ceasefire. I had made it clear that Pakistan did not want war." The foreign minister said that Pakistan had been suggested to sit down at a neutral venue

for talks, to which he had expressed his willingness to do so. "I had made it clear that there will be no discussion on any single-point agenda with India. We will discuss all outstanding issues, including the Kashmir issue with India," he said.

China's Foreign Minister Wang, COAS Munir discuss regional security and counter-terrorism

NEWS DESK: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a meeting with Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in Islamabad during his official visit to the country, discussing regional security and counter-terrorism, the military's media wing said on Friday.



The Chinese foreign minister arrived in Pakistan late Wednesday night to attend the sixth Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue on Thursday morning. He also met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, reaffirming China's commitment to working with Pakistan to promote regional peace, development, and stability.

Wang said that China was prepared to support its neighbors on issues concerning their core interests and to firmly oppose external interference in the region, per a Chinese foreign ministry handout. He stressed the need to improve the security dialogue mechanism, deepen law enforcement and security cooperation, strengthen the fight against transnational terrorism, and eliminate conditions that promote extremism.

COAS Munir held discussions focused on regional security, counter-terrorism and matters of mutual interest.

"Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen the strategic partnership and enhance coordination at regional and international forums."

Wang reiterated China's steadfast support for Pakistan's sovereignty and development, the statement said, adding that COAS Munir expressed gratitude for China's consistent support for Pakistan.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to advance peace, stability, and prosperity in the region, it said.

Pakistan and China share a longstanding strategic partnership that covers trade, energy, defence and infrastructure. Their militaries have built deep mutual trust and cooperation, and both sides agreed to sustain high-level visits while enhancing collaboration in joint training, exercises and military technology. On August 1, COAS Munir, while speaking at an event marking the 98th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army of China, stressed that the "enduring partnership" between Islamabad and Beijing will continue to play a pivotal role in regional stability.

Last month, during COAS Munir's visit to Beijing, the Chinese leadership had lauded the role of the Pakistan Army and hailed it as a "cornerstone of resilience and a vital contributor" for peace in the region.

QUETTA

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan Higher Education Crisis: Underpaid Faculty, Overlooked Future

Editorial: Balochistan, Pakistan's most underdeveloped yet resource-rich province, is facing a devastating higher education crisis. While billions of rupees are allocated annually for infrastructure—such as roads, dams, and drainage projects—the province's public sector universities remain critically underfunded.

Faculty and staff at three major institutions—University of Balochistan, B.U.T.E.M.S. (Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences) and Sardar Bahadur Women's University—have taken to the streets in protest over non-payment of salaries, delayed allowances, and budget cuts in the education

sector. These institutions educate over 30,000 students, both male and female, from across Balochistan. Despite their vital role in producing future engineers, researchers, and leaders, their teachers remain underpaid.

Instead of addressing this crisis, the Higher Education Department Balochistan recently announced austerity measures, including drastic cuts to faculty allowances—from junior staff to senior professors. In a time of soaring inflation, this is unacceptable. Investing in human capital and quality education must be the province's top priority. Without well-paid, motivated educators, academic performance, research output, and global univer-

sity rankings will continue to decline. Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has shown a commitment to merit-based reforms and corruption-free recruitment in education. However, this vision must now extend to securing sustainable funding for higher education institutions. The current crisis demands urgent financial relief for university staff and improved budget allocations. Public universities in Pakistan are central to national development, especially in regions like Balochistan where access to affordable higher education is already limited. Empowering students through quality learning environments, research funding, and skill-based faculty uplift not only the province but the entire nation.

By Zafar Mirza:

Time for lifestyle medicine

NON-COMMUNICABLE diseases in Pakistan present a growing burden of disease (BoD) that no number of advanced medical interventions can tackle.

This umbrella includes chronic diseases and conditions like cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity, liver and kidney dysfunction, chronic obstructive respiratory disorders, cancers, mental disorders, etc.

Globally, 74 per cent of deaths are caused by these diseases. Seventy-three per cent of all deaths due to NCDs occur in low- and middle-income countries. In 2010, the burden of disease posed by NCDs in Pakistan surpassed that of communicable diseases with ever-increasing presentations.

Currently, every fourth adult above the age of 20 in Pakistan suffers from Type II diabetes, that's 33 million adults, making it the third-largest population in the world, right after India and China. Every third Pakistani adult above the age of 45 years suffers from high blood pressure.

One in every nine women is likely to face breast cancer. In Pakistan, years lived with disability—a product of prevalence and disability weight—for women aged 10 to 24 years, due to breast cancer, is the highest in the world. Every fourth woman quietly struggles with period depression.

A study spanning 30 years on BoD trends in Pakistan shows that all NCDs are on the rise. Ischemic heart disease, for example, has increased by more than 25pc in the last 30 years. In terms of changes in the BoD ranking of diseases, diabetes moved from 26th place in 1990 to fifth in 2019, and breast cancer from 38th to 18th in the same period.

The WHO lists the following five key risk factors for major NCDs: tobacco use, an unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, harmful intake of alcohol and air pollution.

Lifestyle medicine is about holistic care. A major element of these diseases, conditions and their associated risk factors comprises our behaviours in daily lives. The burden of disease of NCDs will not change until we change our individual lifestyle choices.

Lifestyle medicine is about holistic self-care and supporting others to change their daily unhealthy behaviours in terms of what they eat (nutrition), how much they exercise (physical activity); how much they sleep (restorative sleep); how they handle stress (stress management); their use of any harmful substances (addictions), and the quality of their social connectedness. These are the six evidence-backed pillars of lifestyle medicine. Though the ideas posited are not new, this is still, in a way, a new branch of medical science. Lifestyle medicine has reorganised old ideas into a new, preventive and therapeutic framework, with strong evidence at the base of each of its six pillars. Many credible studies speak to the effectiveness of these lifestyle behavioural changes when sustained. The collective and synergistic effect of these six behaviours is transformative in the truest sense of the word.

Adopting these behaviours when we are 'healthy' or 'disease-free' tremendously lowers the chances of developing NCDs. However, since lifestyle medicine is its current form

has primarily been developed by medical practitioners in the West, understandably, the emphasis is on treatment.

In the therapeutic sphere, this medicine has indeed shown unequivocal effectiveness. To an extent that patients with NCDs not only experience remission but also a reversal of their diseases, which I have discussed in my column 'Reversing NCDs' (March 21, 2025) focusing solely on the disease or symptoms.

Lifestyle medicine employs a holistic approach rather than focusing solely on the disease. Its aim is to entrain the whole person by aligning with the circadian rhythm and restoring homeostasis. It generally employs non-pharmaceutical lifestyle interventions. In the hands of a skilled lifestyle medical practitioner, the results are astounding.

The American College of Lifestyle Medicine, established in 2004, conducts various 'continued medical education' activities year-round, including a board exam. The International Board of Lifestyle Medicine was set up by the ACLM in 2018 and hosts lifestyle medicine certification exams around the world, which have produced, to date, over 8,000 IBLM diplomates in 92 countries, including 41 in Pakistan, according to the last count. In 2015, the ACLM also initiated the Lifestyle Medicine Global Alliance comprising professional lifestyle medicine associations from around the world.

The only national body from Pakistan in this global alliance is the Pakistan Association of Lifestyle Medicine, which was founded in 2016 by the visionary Dr. Shagufta Feroz, the first IBLM diplomat from Pakistan. It has since grown in terms of its membership, credibility and global standing. Since 2021, PALM is the only organisation in Pakistan authorised to conduct the IBLM certification.

Dr Feroz started out as a family physician in Lahore. Getting fed up over time with the way general practice was being conducted, with its irrational use of medicines, and the pharmaceutical industry's unethical practices, she began to explore alternatives. Dr Feroz ended up completing two PhD degrees in nutrition and integrated medicine from the US.

During this period, she came across lifestyle medicine and finally found her nirvana. She has since been promoting this science by contextualising it in Pakistan's case, and is currently running the 11th Postgraduate Lifestyle Medicine Certificate Course. I myself recently graduated from the 10th course, which I enjoyed and benefited from tremendously. She has developed a great team of professionals, with 'positive deviation', that continues to grow.

That said, PALM still has a long way to go in terms of mainstreaming lifestyle medicine in the healthcare system. For starters, it needs to be integrated at the undergraduate level into the education of health professionals. Further, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan needs to seriously attend to the initiation of postgraduate membership and fellowship programmes in lifestyle medicine. PALM has started working in this direction. The time for lifestyle medicine has arrived.

Rethinking art and design education in Pakistan

I am writing to share an ongoing project titled "Decolonizing Art & Design Education in Pakistan: Linking Research, Practice & Policy". The project recognises the need to reassess strategies for a more comprehensive and result-oriented approach in art and design education. It proposes contextually engaged learning and urban areas including the Quetta sub-basin where 90% of the drinking water is utilized from groundwater. Groundwater quality has a direct impact on the health and welfare of the inhabitants therefore fresh and clean water supply need to be prioritized. Drinking water must be free from

pathogenic organisms. Water from any source must suit the human life. It stands second to the art for the existence of all human beings and it is now a commonly known fact that groundwater quality is as important as its quantity. Balochistan is becoming the fast water-scarce province of the country particularly in urban areas including the Quetta sub-basin where 90% of the drinking water is utilized from groundwater. Groundwater quality has a direct impact on the health and welfare of the inhabitants therefore fresh and clean water supply need to be prioritized. Drinking water must be free from

The history and politics of the education system in colonial India reveal that undermining the ancient legacy of Indian art and India's status as a hub of higher education since the Vedic Age. The universities of Taxila (5 BC) and Nalanda (5 AD) justify this claim. Indian metaphysicians and logicians made significant contributions preserved through Jain, Buddhist and Hindu traditions.

During the Medieval era, India got introduced to Islamic conventions of learning focusing on spiritual elevation and intellectual heritage. Arabs and Turks who brought Islam to the subcontinent were acquainted with the sophisticated Persian culture and its achievements in educational leadership of the medieval world.

It is believed that for several centuries, a series of brilliant philosophers and scientists made Baghdad the intellectual centre of the medieval world.

The translation of Greek texts into Arabic, the warmongers' rivalry with their 'old-you-so-good'. Journalistic neutrality has been thrown to the winds; anchors, reporters and analysts have traded their reputations and professionalism for certificates of patriotism from state institutions.

By Sadia Pasha Kamran:

Tracking the renewable energy transition

At the last climate summit in 2023, hosted by Dubai, international consensus could not be secured to phase out harmful fossil fuels completely. Instead, over 130 countries signed a pact to boost renewable energy production by 2030. While there has been impressive growth in renewables in the past few years, the world is still off-track to meet the goal of tripling renewable generation capacity in the next five years.

Producing more renewable energy is vital to enable a desperately needed shift away from fossil fuels, which are a leading cause of global warming.

Renewable production is also vital for meeting the demand for electricity. Besides the imperative of providing electricity to more people, the demand for electricity-intensive appliances such as air conditioning is growing across our warming planet.

Manufacturing processes have also become more electricity-intensive, and artificial intelligence needs a lot of electric power to run. Continued reliance on fossil fuels for energy will make the goal of limiting global heating to below 1.5C unattainable. Yet, governments are not keeping up with the UN-endorsed goal of quickly switching over to renewables.

A recent report by Ember, an energy-focused think tank.

By Sved Mohammad Ali:

Quetta: Contaminated water posing a serious threat to human health

Fresh and clean water is an essential part of human life. It stands second to the art for the existence of all human beings and it is now a commonly known fact that groundwater quality is as important as its quantity. Balochistan is becoming the fast water-scarce province of the country particularly in urban areas including the Quetta sub-basin where 90% of the drinking water is utilized from groundwater. Groundwater quality has a direct impact on the health and welfare of the inhabitants therefore fresh and clean water supply need to be prioritized. Drinking water must be free from

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Pakistan receives \$208.1m net FDI in July, China tops with 25pc share

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan received \$208.1 million in net foreign direct investment (FDI) in July 2025, the first month of the ongoing financial year 2025-26, with China emerging as the leading investor, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday quoting the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

China contributed \$51.5 million in net FDI, accounting for 24.7 percent of the total inflows.

The gross inflows from China stood at \$89 million, but an outflow of \$37.6 million brought the net figure down to \$51.5 million.

Other major contributors in July included Canada (\$37.8 million), Hong Kong (\$30.1 million), Switzerland (\$20.6 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$19.7 million), the United Kingdom (\$16.9 million), Singapore (\$9.1 million), and the United States which recorded a modest \$3.6 million.

The remaining investment came from other partner countries.

During the previous fiscal year 2024-25, Pakistan received a total of \$2.46 billion in FDI, of which nearly half (49.9pc) came from China, amounting to \$1.22 billion.

This was almost double the \$643.2 million net investment received from Beijing in FY 2023-24, underscoring China's growing role as Pakistan's single

largest investor.

The latest figures signal a positive start to the new fiscal year, coinciding with the arrival of Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese Foreign Minister in Islamabad for the 6th round of the Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue, scheduled this week.

The dialogue will be co-chaired by Wang Yi and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Pirzada Hameedullah meeting with Balochistan Governor Jafar Khan Mandokhail.

Zelensky says Russia trying to 'wriggle out' of peace talks

MOSCOW (INP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Moscow of shirking a meeting between him and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, despite US-led attempts to arrange a summit to end the war.

Donald Trump is trying to end Russia's three-and-a-half year invasion of Ukraine by bringing both Zelensky and Putin to the negotiating table.

But despite high-profile talks with Putin in Alaska last week and separate meetings with Zelensky and European leaders in Washington on Monday, there has been little tangible progress towards a peace deal.

Zelensky said Russia was "trying to wriggle out of holding a meeting". "Frankly speaking, the signals coming from Russia are simply out-

rageous... They don't want to end this war," the Ukrainian leader said during an evening address.

"They continue their massive attacks on Ukraine and their ferocious assaults along the front line," he said. Zelensky has signalled willingness to meet with Putin, but only after his allies agree on security guarantees for Ukraine to deter future Russian attacks once the fighting stops. He has also said any meeting should take place in a "neutral" European country -- ruling out a summit in Moscow -- and rejected the idea of China helping to guarantee Ukrainian security.

"Russia, meanwhile, said that Ukraine did not appear to be interested in 'long-term' peace, accusing Kyiv of seeking guarantees incompat-

ible with Moscow's demands. Trump has set a two-week time frame for assessing the chances of a peace agreement, telling the right-wing media outlet Newsmax that Washington would "have to maybe take a different tack if the talks fell through."

Zelensky also warned that both Moscow and Kyiv were preparing for further fighting. Russia was building up troops on the southern front line, and Ukraine was test-launching a new long-range cruise missile, he said. His comments came after Russia launched hundreds of drones and missiles against Ukraine overnight -- the biggest barrage since mid-July -- killing one person in the western city of Lviv and wounding many others. Russian missiles

also targeted an American-owned factory complex in the town of Mukachevo in western Ukraine, wounding 23 people, the head of the regional military administration said.

The president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine, Andy Hundert, said that Moscow aimed to "destroy and humiliate" US businesses in the country. Zelensky called the attack "a deliberate strike specifically on American-owned property".

A later shelling of the city of Kherson killed one person and wounded more than a dozen, a local official said. And in the Russian-occupied part of Ukraine's Donetsk region, two people were killed and at least 21 wounded after Ukrainian shelling, the Russian-installed regional chief, Denis Pushilin, said.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Indonesia / Chairman of ASEAN Countries, Mr. Chandra Warsanto, presenting his credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari at Aitana-e-Sadr.

United Kingdom (UK) announces £1.33 aid for Pakistan's flood victims

LONDON, Aug 22 (INP): The United Kingdom (UK) on Friday announced £1.33 million in humanitarian aid to support Pakistan's response to the devastating effects of the 2025 monsoon and flood season. This funding will help more than 223,000 people across seven flood-affected districts in Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

UK High Commissioner in Pakistan June Marriott said that the UK's support is enabling a wide range of emergency and

early recovery efforts. These include the provision of dry food rations, search and rescue operations, mobile medical camps, rehabilitation of drinking water systems, restoration of irrigation channels, and support for livelihoods and agriculture.

British High Commissioner said "through UK-funded programmes, vital assistance is reaching communities affected by flooding and landslides. Working closely with national and provincial authorities and partners, the UK remains committed to strengthening Pakistan's disaster response and resilience."

As part of this support, the UK has trained 2400 community volunteers for search and rescue operations, across Pakistan's vulnerable districts.

25 volunteers from Charsadda have joined Rescue 1122's efforts in Buner, providing crucial help at a time when many people remain missing or trapped under debris.

Mobile medical camps are being set up in areas where health clinics have been damaged, ensuring continued access to essential healthcare. Non-food items, food rations, shelter materials, and dignity kits for women are being distributed to displaced families.

Meanwhile, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) District Coordinators in Swat and Buner are helping to coordinate the humanitarian organisations on the ground, ensuring aid is delivered effectively and efficiently.

ATC discharges 15 PTI workers in Oct 5 protest case

LAHORE (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday discharged 15 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers in a case related to the October 5 protest and alleged violence against police.

The workers were present before ATC Judge Manzoor Ali Gill on completion of a three-day physical remand. The police did not seek further custody and instead requested a judicial remand. However, the defence counsel argued that the accused were not involved in the case and they were arrested from a birthday party. The counsel pleaded with the court to discharge his clients.

After hearing arguments, the court ordered that all 15 accused be discharged from the case. Those discharged include Di Dildar Ali, Muhammad Zaeem, Lehari, Zain Khan, Usman Akbar, Ghulam Qadir, Ali Hassan, Sami Iqbal, Tayyab Ahmed, Usman Pal, Muhammad Arsalan, Najeebullah, Malik Suhail, Daniyal Mohsin, and Muhammad Shoab.

China-Pakistan youth volunteers launch Relief Mission for flood victims

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a powerful demonstration of solidarity, Chinese and Pakistani youth have joined forces to provide critical aid to communities devastated by the recent catastrophic floods in Pakistan. Asian Volunteers in Action (AVA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The initiative comes in response to relentless monsoon rains that have battered the country since late June, causing widespread destruction, particularly in low-lying and rural areas. Provincial authorities reported on August 17 that floods had claimed at least 323 lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province alone, with more than 150 people still missing. The national death toll from rain-related incidents rose to 657, underscoring the severity of the ongoing natural disaster.

The China-Pak Youth Exchange and Cooperation Commission, in collaboration with the Beijing One

Heart Sphere Charity Foundation, Federation of Wenzhou Blazing Youth and Asia (China) Philanthropy, has formed the "Relief Efforts for the Floods in Pakistan: Asian Volunteers in Action."

From August 19, these volunteers are working tirelessly in Swat and Buner districts to provide essential support to affected communities. Relief operations include multiple essential components to address immediate humanitarian needs. Volunteers have set up food distribution points, providing cooked meals to approximately 1,500 people daily, a program scheduled to continue for two weeks.

Medical assistance is being delivered through mobile teams with essential medicines and basic health-care equipment to provide urgent care to

the injured and sick.

Temporary medical camps are also being set up, each capable of serving 300 patients daily for three days, while health awareness sessions and distribution of preventive medicines are also being conducted to control potential disease outbreaks.

The relief mission was widely welcomed by local departments and officials, who praised the timely and well-organized response.

"In the coming stages of our relief work, we will establish close collaboration with local meteorological departments and relevant authorities in Pakistan," stated Ma Bin, the head of volunteer coordinators. "This partnership will enable us to access real-time weather data and forecasts, providing crucial information for decision-making in our ongoing rescue operations."

SK Hydro distributes education assistance to local students

ISLAMABAD (INP): SK Hydro Limited held its 2024-2025 "Dreams Becoming Reality" education assistance ceremony at the Siki Kinar Hydropower Station where 29 local students received support for their studies in healthcare, engineering, and vocational training.

The event was attended by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Manshehra, representatives of the local military, and senior company officials, according to Gwadar Pro.

The initiative, launched in September 2024, aims to provide education support to young people in the project area and is now in its second year. In his remarks, the DC of

Manshehra congratulated the hydroproject station on nearing its first anniversary of commercial operations and acknowledged its role in contributing to local development.

He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring a safe and stable environment for the project. Community infrastructure projects connected with SK Hydro, including a viewing platform and a government service center in the Khan area, are also under development.

Since beginning operations in September 2024, the hydroproject has generated over 2.4 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, ac-

ording to company figures. Officials said the project is helping to provide clean energy to the national grid while supporting local communities through education and development programs. Following the ceremony, the DC of Manshehra and his delegation toured the powerhouse and switching station to review operational performance.

He praised the project for maintaining safe and efficient power generation under challenging conditions and highlighted the effective cooperation between the government and Pakistan employees.

The 884 MW Siki Kinar Hydroproject Station was built with in-



PESHAWAR: Ambassador (R) Farukh Aml briefs media at IPO Regional Office Peshawar.

TENDER NOTICE

Ref: TSE-2526022993 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPFRS, GOB. The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Hub invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs. 2000/- and Bid Security 2% for each work.

S.No.	Name of Works	Est.Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF MUSAFIRDAM DISTRICT HUB BALOCHISTAN	982,584,825/-
2	TSE-2526022993	
2	CONSTRUCTION OF SHANAZEHRI DELAY ACTION DAM HUB BALOCHISTAN TSE-2526022993	679,950,668/-
3	CONSTRUCTION OF SHANAZEHRI DAM DISTRICT HUB TSE-2526022993	213,829,979/-

Tender Fee 1500 PKR and Bid Security 2%

1. CONSTRUCTION OF GATE ON TEMPLE DRAINAT RD (0+00) DISTRICT JAFFARABAD

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List (the bidder must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority. Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar works of work Turn over of at least 13 (BCL 416 PKR Amount in subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-4 and above (Rate 25 million) Relevant Category A and Specialized Code is CE10) (General Civil Engineering Works). (Power of Attorney) authorizing a person to submit the Bid. The Bid must accompany a power of Attorney issued by authorized representative of the Firm/company having the name and CNIC No. of the person to whom Power of Attorney has been issued. 2% of Estimated Cost Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee Deposit at all of 2% specified above in the name of the contractor against a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-mentioned 1500 PKR issuance of Tender Documents. From the date of publication of NIT till 08 September, 2025 (during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission. The tenders must be submitted latest by 08 September, 2025 (at 10:00 AM). Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-mentioned at 11:00 AM Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION/CONSTRUCTION DIVISION/DESAIWAR@p.gov.pk Phone No: 0853510291 Email: mahidulhasanar@p.gov.pk

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION DEBRAIWAR

PRO No: 753/22-8-2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION CANAL IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT HUB

PRO No: 753/22-8-2025

Death toll in Karachi firecrackers blast rises to five

KARACHI (INP): The death toll in the powerful explosion, which occurred in a firecrackers factory in Karachi on Thursday, rose to five as on Friday as rescue personnel recovered another dead body from under the debris of Anna Building.

Another 35 people including the owner of the factory were injured in the blast at the firecrackers godown. Rescue personnel shifted the dead to Trauma Center of Civil Hospital in Karachi. The dead person was later identified as Shehzad Ali, aged 40.

Later, the police filed a first

information report (FIR) against the owners of the godown Mohammad Hanif and Mohammad Ayub, on behalf of the government. Police said that Mohammad Hanif is under treatment in the hospital, and Mohammad Ayub escaped from the scene.

On Thursday, a powerful blast ripped through the firecrackers warehouse on MA Jinnah Road, leading to a massive blaze and intermittent explosions in the area. The sheer intensity of the blast also damaged nearby vehicles and shattered windows of surrounding buildings, filling the area with

heavy smoke drifting towards the Lines Area.

The ground-plus-two building housed medical equipment shops in addition to the firecrackers warehouse. Authorities said flammable items, including oxygen cylinders, were being urgently removed to avert a larger catastrophe.

Police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed Tariq said that the number of injured persons reached 35. She added that 20 wounded persons were brought to Jinnah Hospital and 15 others were taken to Civil Hospital, while four of them were in critical condition.



ISLAMABAD: UAE ambassador to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar.

ADB approves largest foreign direct investment in Pakistan's history

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$410 million financing package for the Reko Diq copper-gold mine in Pakistan. The project will help meet rising global demand for critical minerals and unlock transformative economic development and poverty reduction in the nation.

"Reko Diq will help the critical minerals supply chain, while advancing the clean energy transition and driving digital innovation across the region and beyond," said ADB President Masato Kanda. "ADB's support is also a game-changer for Pakistan, creating quality jobs and underpinning the nation's transition toward a more resilient and diversified economy."

ADB is one of several agencies funding the first phase of Reko Diq, with an innovative financing package that will help unlock greater private capital by derisking this investment.

ADB's contribution consists of up to \$300 million in senior loans to the Reko Diq Mining Company Private Limited (RDMC), which owns the

mine, and a \$110 million partial credit guarantee to cover the equity component of the Government of Balochistan. Financing for the project will be the largest foreign direct investment in Pakistan's history.

When fully complete, Reko Diq is expected to be the world's fifth largest copper mine. In the first phase, the mine will produce on average 800,000 tons of copper concentrate per annum and play a key role in addressing the projected global copper shortfall.

Copper, a critical mineral for energy transition and digital transformation, is essential to the global production of renewable energy technologies, electric vehicles, batteries, smartphones, and data centres.

Located in the Chagai district of Balochistan — Pakistan's least developed province — the Reko Diq copper-gold mine is expected to have a significant impact on the economy.

It will create thousands of jobs, stimulate regional economic growth, and support social development programmes in healthcare and education, including targeted initiatives for communities, especially

women.

RDMC is a joint venture designed to ensure equitable benefit-sharing. Barrick Mining Corporation, which will build and operate the mine, owns 50% of RDMC, the Government of Balochistan (through Balochistan Mineral Reserve Limited) owns 25%, and three federal state-owned enterprises together own 25%.

Work at the site, which involves building and operating the open pit mine and processing plant, began this year. The mine is being developed with robust environmental, social, and governance standards. It will start producing copper concentrate in late 2028 and is expected to operate for at least 37 years.

Reko Diq is the first mining project supported by ADB under its new Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Value Chains approach, designed to help Asia and the Pacific capitalize on rising demand for materials essential to clean energy and digital technologies. All projects will be subject to ADB's strict environmental and social requirements, due diligence and rigorous impact assessments.

PTI doesn't believe in dialogue, democracy: Rana Sanaullah

FAISALABAD (INP): Advisor to Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), always created hurdles in dialogue process. PTI didn't believe in dialogue and democracy, he said. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had offered talks to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders but they refused to sit together on many occasions, he stated. Dialogue is the only way in the democratic system to resolve the political issues, he said.

Commenting on the court verdict regarding PTI founder case, he said interim-relief doesn't mean that all the cases are over or abolished. There are still cases including 190 million pound case against the PTI leader with strong evidence, he added.

Sindh approves recruitment of 2,000 ASIs in police investigation wing

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has decided to recruit 2,000 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) in police investigation wing.

The move is aimed at improving the province's law enforcement and justice system.

The decision was made during a high-level meeting chaired by Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, which was attended by IG Sindh, the Additional Chief Secretary for Home, the Secretary Services, and other senior officials. Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah asserted that enhancing the investigation system within the police will boost public trust, adding: "This is a key step toward improving the investigative capabilities of the police force."

He further stated that an efficient investigation system can

lead to swift justice for citizens and a significant reduction in crime. The Sindh chief secretary also directed that any obstacles in the recruitment process of ASI investigation officers be promptly addressed. Speaking at the meeting, IG Sindh said that the recruitment will lead to higher quality investigations, adding: "Improved investigations will ensure timely justice and stronger action against criminal elements."

Earlier, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Sindh compiled a new edition of its "Grey Book," featuring profiles of 81 highly wanted suspects.

According to authorities, Grey Book 2 includes details of individuals wanted in cases of murder, attempted murder, and kidnapping for ransom.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review relief operations during the torrential rains and floods.

Sindh Governor approves Provincial Vehicles Amendment Bill 2025

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori has approved the Provincial Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill 2025 under Article 116, making it effective immediately.

According to report published by the Motor Vehicles Act, the Provincial Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill 2025 has been introduced to enhance public safety across the province.

The Provincial Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill 2025 includes strict legal action for violations of the Motor Vehicles Act. Additional conditions have been imposed for issuing heavy vehicle driving licences. A pre-licence training course has been mandated for obtaining both Light Transport Vehicle (LTV) and Heavy Transport Ve-

hicle (HTV) licences.

The Provincial Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill 2025 also introduces a demerit points system for drivers, aimed at improving road safety and compliance.

According to report published earlier, at least 546 people lost their lives in traffic accidents across Karachi during the first seven months of this year.

Rescue data further revealed that 8,136 citizens sustained injuries in various traffic accidents during the same period. Heavy vehicles were involved in accidents that claimed the lives of 165 people. The fatalities include 425 men, 51 women, 51 boys, and 19 girls. Among heavy vehicles, father critically injured. Following both Light Transport Vehicle (LTV) and Heavy Transport Ve-

for 37 deaths, dumpers for 32, and buses for 20 fatalities, according to the statistics.

Authorities have urged stricter enforcement of traffic rules and improved road safety measures to curb the rising number of deadly accidents in the city.

At least seven dumpers were set ablaze by enraged residents following the deaths of a brother and sister in a high-speed, heavy traffic accident on Rashid Minhas Road in Karachi.

A speeding dumper ran over a motorcycle on Rashid Minhas Road in the Federal Area, killing a 22-year-old woman, Mahnoor, and her 14-year-old brother, Ahmed Raza, while leaving their father critically injured. Following the incident, angry residents set fire to seven dumpers in the area.

Deforestation worsening Pakistan's floods, experts cite lessons from China

ISLAMABAD (INP): The recent monsoon floods, which have claimed more than 300 lives across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir, have once again underscored Pakistan's severe vulnerability to climate change. Experts warn that rampant deforestation is amplifying the destruction caused by heavy rains and flash floods.

"The trees that once held the mountains together are gone. Every year the floods get worse," said Shazia Bibi, a farmer from Azad Kashmir whose fields were washed away this season.

Official figures confirm the trend. Pakistan's forest cover has fallen from 3.78 million hectares in 1992 to just 1.09 million hectares in 2025, leaving only five percent of total land under forests, the lowest in South Asia.

In Azad Kashmir, forest cover dropped from 46 percent in 2000 to 39 percent in 2020, a decline directly linked to worsening floods and landslides.

"Deforestation is dismantling Pakistan's first line of defense against floods," said Dr. Pervaz Amir, a senior environmental economist. "The cost in human lives and economic damage is far greater than any short-term gains from logging or land use."

By contrast, China has emerged as a global leader in afforestation and flood management. Since 2012, it has planted over 66 million hectares of trees, raising forest coverage above 25 percent and contributing nearly one-quarter of the world's new forests. Environmentalist Professor Ma Jun described the effort as "strategic, strengthening food security, water security, and disaster resilience." China's response to its 1998 floods offers a model for Pakistan. Following that disaster, Beijing launched massive reforestation and watershed management programs, restoring wetlands, and invested in sponge cities — urban centers designed to absorb rainfall and reduce runoff. These measures cut flood peaks by up to 30 percent. Recently, Liaos in southwest China's Xizang has completed afforestation of nearly 72,000 hectares and planted over 120 million seedlings in 4 years, with soil erosion in the afforestation areas reducing by 60% according to the latest data.

Experts note that Chinese strategy extended well beyond tree planting. It included strict river zoning to prevent construc-

tion on floodplains, terracing and check dams in hilly regions to slow water flow, and eco-agriculture practices to protect soil cover. Advanced early warning systems and community-level disaster drills further enhanced resilience.

Analysis argue that Pakistan could adopt similar measures by combining reforestation with better river management, zoning laws to restrict construction in flood-prone areas, and the development of urban water-absorption infrastructure. Additional priorities include restoring wetlands and lakes degraded by unchecked urbanization, improving drainage systems, and investing in rainwater harvesting. Policy experts also stress the importance of governance reforms. They recommend strict bans and penalties against tree cutting, curbing illegal logging, ensuring transparent use of climate finance, and providing alternative livelihoods to communities dependent on forests. At the grassroots level, community-driven initiatives are showing promise. In Azad Kashmir, a schoolteacher, Usman, has pioneered rainwater harvesting to revive dried aquifers and springs, an one-man movement now supported by hundreds of volunteers.



DHAKA: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan presenting a souvenir to Bangladesh's Adviser for Food Ali Imran Majumdar during their meeting on food security cooperation.

Asad describes Aleema's son kidnapping as 'Andher nagri, Chopat Raj'

SWAT (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser and the party's spokesperson have strongly condemned the alleged kidnapping of Shah Reez Khan, son of Aleema Khan, sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, from her residence in Lahore. The incident, reportedly carried out by armed men in plain clothes, has sparked outrage and accusations of state-sponsored oppression.

Asad Qaiser, in a statement posted on X, described the incident as a continuation of the 'Andher nagri, Chopat Raj' means 'A confused ruler, a chaotic state' in Pakistan, asserting that the attack on Aleema Khan's home and the abduction of her son are

"highly condemnable acts." He emphasized that such incidents highlight the insecurity of citizens' lives, property, and honor, raising questions about the responsibilities of state institutions. Qaiser demanded that those responsible be exposed and brought to justice to deter future illegal acts.

The PTI spokesperson, in a statement issued on PTI-X, alleged that Shah Reez Khan was forcibly taken from his bedroom after the assailants broke into Aleema Khan's house. The statement further claimed that employees at the residence were subjected to brutal torture during the incident. The party accused the government, specifically point-

ing to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her administration, of orchestrating the kidnapping.

Meanwhile, Aleema Khan, speaking to the media, expressed frustration with the Islamabad High Court for not granting her bail and raised concerns about the judicial process. She questioned the credibility of witnesses and criticized the court's handling of the Al-Qadir Trust case involving Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, noting that no hearing date had been provided despite appeals from PTI parliamentarians to the Chief Justice. The PTI's statements reflect growing concerns over political persecution, with the party calling for accountability and justice in response to the incident.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Mir Liaquat Lehri and PPP leader Kiran Baloch are meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani.