

QUETTA VOICE

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Quetta Voice.



At least 5 killed in rain-related incidents across KP over last 24 hours

Balochistan Cannot Afford Another Flood Disaster

Syed Ali Shah
Analysis:

Rising Threat of Indus River Floods

Balochistan once again stands at the brink of a flood disaster, with rising Indus River water levels threatening Jaffarabad, Usta Muhammad, Sohbatpur, and neighboring districts. Authorities warn that floodwaters could spill into low-lying areas on September 2 and 3, forcing thousands of families to seek safety.

To mitigate risks, the provincial irrigation department has established 16 flood control centers, while the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has set up a camp office in Nasirabad to oversee operations. Safe relocation sites have also been identified, and rescue teams with machinery are on standby. While these measures are crucial, they highlight once again the province's fragile infrastructure against natural disasters.

Lessons from the 2022 Floods



The memories of the 2022 Balochistan floods remain fresh. Torrential rains and flash floods devastated entire communities, sweeping away homes, bazaars, and infrastructure. Train services between Balochistan and the rest of Pakistan were suspended for weeks after tracks were washed away and a historic bridge collapsed in the mountains.

Highways connecting Quetta to Karachi and Islamabad were also cut off, isolating the province completely. If new floods strike again, they will only

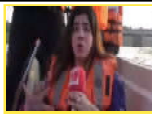
compound the suffering of communities still struggling to recover from the devastation of 2022.

A Climate Change Fund — But More is Needed

It is encouraging that the provincial government has established a Climate Change Fund to strengthen resilience against future disasters. However, this step must go further. The PDMA must be made more effective, better equipped, and proactive in responding to emergencies. Simply allocating

funds is not enough; what Balochistan needs is a long-term strategy for flood management, stronger embankments, climate-resilient infrastructure, and community awareness programs.

As climate change accelerates, floods in Balochistan are no longer rare — they are annual, predictable disasters. Islamabad and Quetta must act decisively. The people of Balochistan cannot afford another round of devastation, displacement, and neglect. Protecting lives and livelihoods is not optional; it is a national responsibility.



Viral "BBC Urdu" Flood Reporter Actually Belongs to Bhai Bhai Channel

Polio Vaccination Drive to Cover 2.2 Million Children Across 26 Districts of Balochistan

QUETTA (STAFF REPORT) A seven-day anti-polio campaign will begin across 26 districts of Balochistan from September 1, 2025, targeting vaccination of nearly 2.2 million children under the age of five.

According to the Coordinator of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Balochistan, Inam ul Haq, all arrangements for the campaign have been finalized.

A total of 8,933 teams will take part, including 652 fixed teams and 459 transit teams, to ensure that children in both urban and remote areas receive polio drops.

The campaign will be carried out in Quetta, Killa Abdullah, Chaman, Khuzdar, Dera Bugti, Jaffarabad, Lasbela, Zhob, Ziarat and several other districts of the province. Highlighting the im-



portance of the drive, Inam ul Haq said that polio is a crippling and incurable disease, and urged parents to ensure that their children are vaccinated. He emphasized that "even if one child is left unvaccinated, all children remain at risk."

He also appealed to teachers, religious leaders, and civil society members to raise awareness and mobilize communities for the success of the campaign. Alongside polio drops, he reminded parents of the importance of routine immunization to protect

children against 12 deadly diseases such as measles, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, and diphtheria.

"Protecting children's health is a shared responsibility. Every dose of vaccine is a step towards a polio-free future," he added.

Students Question MDCAT 2024 Validity, Urge PMDC for Fair and Transparent 2025 Exam

Syed Muhammad Yaseen

ISLAMABAD: Medical aspirants across Pakistan are urging the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC) to reconsider its decision on the three-year validity of MDCAT 2024 results, citing fairness and merit concerns.

Students argue that the real focus now should be on ensuring that MDCAT 2025 is conducted transparently, free of errors and irregularities.

Concerns Over 2024 Examination

Candidates allege that the MDCAT 2024 suffered from question errors, irregularities, and lack of transparency, which damaged trust in the testing process. They warn that extending its validity for three years under the PMDC Act 2022 places fresh aspirants at a disadvantage while rewarding results from a disputed

exam. **Students Push for a Fair 2025 Test**

Students groups are pressing the Council to limit MDCAT 2024 validity to one admission cycle and shift focus to conducting a flawless MDCAT 2025.

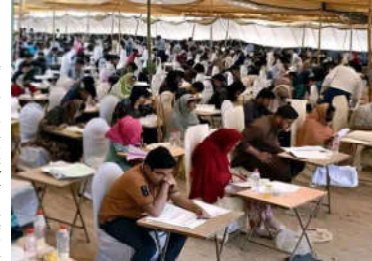
They demand strict oversight, prevention of paper leaks, adherence to the official syllabus, and im-

partial marking to restore credibility in medical admissions.

One student representative stated, "Merit must not be compromised. The best way forward is to ensure that MDCAT 2025 is fair, transparent, and equal for all. Only then can trust be restored in the process."

PMDC's Current Position

Currently, PMDC and the University of Health Sciences (UHS) confirm that MDCAT 2024 results remain valid for three years nationwide and are recognized by all medical colleges. However, mounting student pressure and repeated calls for a credible MDCAT 2025 are expected to intensify debate within the Council in the coming months.



Viral "BBC Urdu" Flood Reporter Actually Belongs to Bhai Bhai Channel

Syed Ali Shah, Monitoring Desk:

A young reporter named Mehrunissa has become an internet sensation after her quirky flood coverage went viral — but not for the reasons many first believed.

In a video that spread rapidly on social media, Mehrunissa was seen covering the Punjab floods from a small rocking boat. At first, she tried to maintain a serious tone, warning viewers: "As you can see, the water pressure is rising." But within moments, her composure broke as she squealed: "Bohat dar lag rahi hai, kabhi yeh issa side hoti hai kabhi uss — balance nahin ho rahi hume (We're terrified, the boat keeps tipping from one side to another, we can't bal-



ance)." Her candid sign-off — "Bas aap hamare live dua karen, guys" (Just pray for us, guys) — instantly made her a social media favorite, with many calling it "cute reporting" amid the devastating floods.

However, what really caught people's attention was the logo on her mic, which read "BBC Urdu". This led many to believe that the British Broadcasting Corporation's Urdu Service had hired a new, rather unconventional correspondent. But the truth soon came out: Mehrunissa was not reporting for BBC Urdu at all. She was actually on duty for Bhai Bhai Channel, a lesser-known digital media outlet.

At least 5 killed in rain-related incidents across KP over last 24 hours

NEWS DESK: Monsoon rains across Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa have claimed the lives of five people — four of them children — and injured another five over the last 24 hours, according to a KP Provincial Disaster Management Authority's report.

Heavy rains continue to lash parts of KP as it reels from catastrophic floods that ravaged the province earlier this month, leaving 406 dead in its wake.

On August 30, the provincial capital Peshawar received 41 millimetres of rain, whereas heavy rainfall in the catchment areas in Khyber district also swelled the Budni and other nullahs, submerging low-lying areas along Warsak Road, Safa Town, Regi Model Town and Nasir Bagh, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD).

As per the KP PDMA report, as a result of the rain, "two were reported dead in Peshawar — both children — including a child who was swept away by a flash flood and another three-month-old infant who died as a result of a roof collapse incident."

Five people sustained injuries in separate infrastructure collapse incidents.

Meanwhile, heavy rain in upper South Waziristan claimed the lives of three people from the same family after the roof of their



house collapsed. The dead include two children and a woman.

According to the PDMA report, a total of six houses have been damaged due to rain and urban flooding, including three that were destroyed completely.

In a statement, the PDMA spokesperson said, "PDMA has directed respective district administrations to intensify relief efforts and ensure timely assistance to victims."

"PDMA's Emergency Operation Centre is fully functional," the spokesperson added, urging people to contact PDMA's helpline at 1700 in case of emergency or weather updates.

According to the PMD, Cherat received 165mm of rain over the past 24 hours, while Kakul received 54mm, Peshawar 41mm, Balakot 14mm, Malam Jabba 10mm, Bannu 5mm, and Dera Ismail Khan 4mm.

The latest data from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) showed that at least 853 people have died and over 1,000 have been injured in rain-related incidents and flash flooding since the start of the Monsoon season on June 25.

Monsoon rains, which fall across the region from June to September every year, continue to lash many parts of the country. Starting in late June,

Monsoon rains have wreaked havoc across the country in the past month by triggering deadly floods, landslides and displacement, particularly in vulnerable, poorly drained, or densely populated areas.

EDITORIAL

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan's Climate Fund – A Lifeline Against Growing Disasters

Editorial: Balochistan has taken a historic and timely step by establishing its first-ever Climate Fund, a move that signals the province's recognition of the existential threat posed by global warming and climate change. In his recent meeting with British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti rightly underscored the urgency of mobilizing resources to safeguard communities from natural calamities that are growing in frequency and intensity.

Floods In Bannai

The tragic flash floods in the Bannai area of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa this month, which claimed precious human lives, are a grim reminder of Pakistan's extreme vulnerability. The province, with its fragile ecological and seismic zone — prone not only to floods but also to recurring droughts, earthquakes, and the looming threat of desertification. Each disaster further strains an already fragile infrastructure, displaces communi-

ties, and deepens poverty.

Stop Deforestation

The Climate Fund, if implemented transparently and effectively, has the potential to become a lifeline for millions. It can provide the financial base for disaster preparedness, early warning systems, reforestation, water management, and community resilience projects. Equally important, it can build trust between the government and people by showing that saved resources — like the Rs. 14 billion cartailed from non-developmental expenditures — are being invested in protecting lives and livelihoods.

The Battle Cannot Be Fought Alone

However, climate change is not a battle that Balochistan can fight alone. Partnerships with international allies, such as the United Kingdom, are essential for bringing technical expertise, innovative solutions, and funding support. Training local institutions, particularly in areas like disaster man-

agement and environmental conservation, should be a top priority. The provincial government's commitment to reforms in governance, education, and healthcare is commendable, but the climate emergency must remain at the center of its development agenda. Without climate resilience, all other bet is a risk being washed away by the next flood or crippled by the next drought.

Balochistan has shown leadership by creating this Climate Fund. The next step is to ensure that it does not become another underutilized policy initiative. Effective monitoring, independent oversight, and community involvement will be key to a success.

In the face of global warming, every day carries a cost in human lives and economic stability. The Climate Fund must now take all possible steps to translate the promise of the Climate Fund into real protections for the people of Balochistan.

By Ishrat Husain:

Provinces or local government?

RECENT media reports indicate that the '27th constitutional amendment' is likely to divide the existing four federating units into 12 provinces.

Before finalising such a decision, parliamentarians must consider a superior alternative — to use this amendment to delineate local government (LGs) responsibilities and functions in Article 140-A of the Constitution and insert an additional list in the Fourth Schedule supplementing the federal and provincial lists.

There are compelling arguments why the division may not achieve the intended goal of providing public services to citizens. The timing is not ideal, as it could hinder the economy's transition from stabilisation to sustained inclusive growth. Article 239(4) requires the provincial assemblies to pass a resolution to create new provinces. Achieving a two-thirds majority for these resolutions is unlikely, and political tension could increase at a time when stability is needed for economic reform.

There are compelling arguments why more provinces may not achieve the intended goal.

Second, even if this happens, dividing assets and liabilities, handling legal disputes, restructuring administrations, reassigning civil servants, delimiting constituencies and redrawing boundaries would distract policymakers from their focus on economic recovery.

A third aspect is the potential for significant increases in public expenditure due to additional offices, residences, vehicles, equipment, benefits, protocol, and operating costs for numerous ministers, legislators and bureaucrats, affecting fiscal consolidation efforts.

Fourth, decision-making and dispute resolution at the CCI, NFC and NEC may be delayed by provinces extend negotiations to support their respective claims. Fifth, citizens' access to ministers and legislators would remain restricted compared to that of nazims and councillors also residing in the same villages and cities.

Sixth, business costs would escalate as companies operating nationwide would fall under 12 jurisdictions and file separate tax returns with different rates. Seventh, intra-regional inequalities would become sharper as relatively well-endowed areas such as Peshawar and Hazara in KP, Quetta in Balochistan, central and western Punjab and southern Sindh would do well compared to other provinces in the same region.

What should Article 140-A and the new Fourth Schedule list prescribe for LGs?

a) LGs would have complete control over education in primary and secondary schools up to Matric, healthcare up to district hospitals, water supply, sewerage, solid waste disposal, population planning, sports, mass transit, roads, bridges within district limits, prosecution, social welfare, and community and women's development. All staff up to Grade 16 would be transferred along with their salary and allowances but not their posts.

b) Nazims would be directly elected on a party basis and half the seats of various corporations and councils allocated on through proportional representation, reserved for women, technocrats, minorities, peasants and labourers. Large urban areas would have metropolitan corporations with the mayor heading the district

government.

For example, the Lahore Metropolitan Corporation nazim would supervise and oversee agencies such as LDA, WASA, the waste management company, the Mass Transit Authority, and the Lahore Industrial Estates Development Company in addition to devolved departments. For other districts, there would be a mix of district corporations and municipal corporations/committees. In predominantly rural areas, the district council nazim would head the district government. Each province would design its own configuration of union, town, tehsil, municipal and district councils depending on population, area and density.

What Punjab may choose may not be the needs of Balochistan with its small population and larger area.

c) In the context of fiscal decentralisation, the Provincial Finance Commission will allocate a minimum of 30 to 40 per cent of the provincial share from the divisible tax pool (without distorting the existing NFC award allocation to the provinces) to LGs, granting them autonomy in budget formulation and implementation. The PFC would give preference in allocation to backward districts as advanced districts can mobilise revenues from their own sources, incentivised by matching grants.

The LG would assess and collect urban immovable property tax, capital gains tax, agricultural tax, cesses, user charges and fees, and spend these resources in their respective jurisdictions. Evidence shows that raising taxes or charging user fees for services at the local level is relatively easy. The district local officer would report administratively to the district nazim, but be professionally supervised by the province's accountant general.

Audit of accounts at all tiers of government would be done by the auditor general of Pakistan. CEOs of corporations and district councils would act as principal accounting officers for issues under their control, head the district development working party (for approval of ADP projects), and district accounts committees.

d) Administratively, current LG and local council service staff should be replaced with experts, professional managers and specialists recruited by the Public Service Commission at market-based salaries. Citizen-facing roles should be filled by young, qualified, courteous and capable officers. Devolved departments' district executive officers must have the legal powers to resolve citizens' issues without referring the matter to provincial secretaries.

e) A subsection defining province-LG relations must be inserted and include performance indicators, monitoring and evaluation, audits, etc. Provision for suspending or superseding LGs should not be at the discretion of the chief ministers. Deputy commissioners can assist LGs but not interfere in their daily affairs.

If effectively implemented, strengthening LGs may offer substantial advantages relative to creating new provinces. First, it would minimise dissatisfaction with the government as citizens would be able to access basic services at the grassroots level.

Second, they would have a say in setting priorities and decision-making, leading to efficient resource allocation and cost-effectiveness.

The end of soft power

In the first six months of his presidency, American President Donald Trump has transformed the rules of international relations in ways that are surprising for an isolationist president whose main concern is his ultra-nationalist voter base. Welding carrots and sticks, he has used the threat of international tariffs and the weaponisation of trade to come down hard on everyone he believes is taking advantage of the US.

The list of culprits is long. Nearly everyone, it appears, is someone the current US president believes is guilty of taking from America and not giving back. The same president has even shown disdain for expenditures such as development aid or cultural diplomacy, both of which have been a mainstay of US diplomacy in the past several decades. It is important to remember that one of the first agencies of the US government to be shuttered was USAID.

Very soon after Trump led by the infamous (and now absent) Elon Musk, barged into USAID offices and ordered all employees. They even took down the sign bearing the agency's name.

Nothing was to be handed out for free anymore; nobody in other countries was to be a priority. This was the anthem sung in the wake of USAID's demise. It does not matter how many around the world criticised America, or how many lives were lost as the distribution of medications and vaccines to remote corners diminished.

The idea that a 'goodwill' of one people was a foreign policy asset no longer held sway. It was the end of soft power.

In the months since, the same strain has been dominant in the mass restructuring of foreign policy now underway in the US.

By Rafia Zakaria:

Abodes of peace

THOSE who have a comfortable home are very lucky. A decent safe and comfortable home is a fundamental human aspiration. It does not need to be a grand bungalow or a multi-room apartment; it can be a simple, airy abode with plenty of sunlight where the family can live peacefully. It should also be secured from natural calamities.

In Pakistan, countless families suffer when natural calamities strike. During the monsoons, many homes are inundated, roofs collapse, people are injured, electricity cut, and therefore, it is necessary that one should ensure that their home can withstand the forces of nature.

The concept of a house is a consistent theme in the Quran. Allah calls believers to 'build houses of peace' (Darus Salam). (10:25) In a hadith, the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) is reported to have said that a house blessed by Allah and provides shelter, safety, security and comfort. A happy home is a subject of Islamic law and generally refers to an environment filled with positive energy and comfort.

How can a house be transformed into a happy abode or a source of blessing? It can be transformed by being 'energised' through regular spiritual practices and prayers. Quran recitation and acts of kindness within the premises. Every family tries to make their homes a place of peace through cleaning and dusting.

By Amin Vahid:

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 air for which it is intended whereas, drinking water must be free from pathogenic organisms and its chemical and physical qualities must also be suitable for human consumption. Accordingly, groundwater contamination is approximately constantly the consequence of human activities.

Accordingly, the (Coliforms and E. Coli) are those bacteria that originate from wastes and intestines of animals and signal contamination in drinking water during testing. A recent report of the Irrigation Department indicates that the high rate of Coliform and

E. Coli bacteria was found in the water of Quetta which signals contaminations in the drinking water that may affect human health and cause severe illness, as such gastrointestinal vomiting, cramps, diarrhea, muscle aches, and headache.

However, anyone can get sick from drinking contaminated water but children, the elderly and people with weak immune systems are at a higher risk of the harmful effects.

Contaminated water in Quetta affecting human health. On the basis of analyzed water quality data of the areas of Mariaband, Shaldara Kasi Road, Pash to o n a b a d,

Order of 2006 fixed these direct transfers at one-sixth of GST collections.

Had that system continued, Karachi would have received Rs190 billion in 2024-25 as a direct transfer from GST alone (as compensation for the OZT).

Other districts governments in Sindh, such as those in Ghotki, Hyderabad and Thatta, which also created a transparent mechanism for direct transfers to the LGs was introduced to compensate for their revenue losses. Later, the Distribution of Revenues & Grants-in-aid

rather than bringing education' meant to them. The mother said an education that gives the young man a good job.

It was not the time to get into a discussion on what 'good education' could mean, other than as a way of getting a good job, though this is definitely an important part of a good education.

So we started with what could lead to a good job.

And then the mother said she believed that her son should do something in computers. I asked the young man if he was interested in computers.

He shrugged his shoulders and did not seem too enthusiastic about it, but parroted the idea that computer science was where the jobs of the future lay.

He had little idea

Counselling needs

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By Faisal Bari:

Policing and CT

The Police Act 1861 made no reference to terrorism.

The Police Order 2002, a post-9/11 law, also overrode the police role in CT. Only Article 160 mentioned terrorism research as a function of the Police. The police role was notable during the Afghan war. Sectarian and ethnic violence further shaped it. In the post-9/11 era, CTDs were created to prevent terrorism, but they were not designed to investigate and prosecute terror cases.

For coordination, Nacta was set up. The Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, provided the framework, while forensic labs

and safe cities projects were introduced.

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Pakistani handicrafts shine at Lhasa expo

BEIJING (INP): A group of Pakistani companies are showcasing the country's rich artisanal heritage at a trade expo at Lhasa, capital city of southwest China's Xizang autonomous region.

Aidi, a seasoned Pakistani exhibitor participating in his sixth trade exhibition in Xizang, said, "This year, we have brought exquisite onyx products and handmade scarves."

Through attending trade shows across different Chinese cities, I have gained valuable insights into the culture and product preferences of people in Xizang. "According to a

report published by Gwadar Pro, the exhibitor emphasised the growing appreciation for Pakistani craftsmanship.

"Pakistan offers a wide range of handmade products that have gained remarkable acceptance in the Chinese market."

Consumers in Xizang particularly appreciate our stone and jade handicrafts, bronze ware, wooden crafts, and carpets."

Mr. Aidi highlighted the unique advantages of Pakistani products.

"Our handmade items offer exceptional value compared to other

countries. More importantly, we carefully study local culture and customize our offerings accordingly."

Understanding and respecting cultural values is the foundation of successful business relationships."

The exhibition also features distinctive Xizang products, including Thangka paintings, local incense, yak-derived products, highland barley items, premium honey, natural drinking water, and modern textiles.

These products demonstrate Xizang's industrial progress while providing international exhibitors with opportunities

for cultural exchange. As the expo continues through September 1, Aidi and other Pakistani businesspeople expressed strong confidence in their prospects.

"This event has opened new doors for understanding the Chinese market and building meaningful connections," Aidi noted.

The expo, officially known as 2025 First Lhasa International Cultural Tourism and Export Trade Excellent Products China Tour Xizang (Lhasa) Station, has attracted 150 exhibitors from over 10 countries and regions, including Nepal, France, Thailand, and Australia.



QUETTA: Teachers of Basic Education Community Schools and National Community Development hold a protest in favor of their demands outside QPC.

Blue economy projects in Gwadar poised to drive Export Growth

ISLAMABAD, Aug 31 (INP): Gwadar's emerging blue economy (spanning fisheries, aquaculture, port trade and renewable energy) is taking centre stage in Pakistan's export strategy for 2025-2035.

According to the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, sustained investment in marine industries linked to the deep-sea port could generate more than \$850 million annually in export revenue, alongside improvements in food security and coastal livelihoods.

"The blue economy is essential for ensuring food security, increasing exports and generating employment across our coastal regions," Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said.

while addressing stakeholders at the launch of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2025-2035) in Islamabad on 11 August 2025.

Fisheries are central to Gwadar's growth strategy. Although Balochistan's 70-km coastline accounts for 76.2% of Pakistan's shore, its fish output remains well below potential.

Federal Maritime Minister Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said Balochistan's annual catch could reach 300,000 tonnes, generating around \$645 million in exports if modern processing were in place.

"Gwadar has rich fish catch potential, and we must focus on local value addition to maximise benefits," he noted.

operate in the province, but most require upgrades to meet international standards.

To bridge the gap, the ministry has launched a 120-acre Aquaculture Park at Korangi (costing Rs3 billion) and plans to replicate the model on Balochistan's coast.

Output from the pilot park is projected at up to 1,200 tonnes annually, with revenue of \$7.2 million depending on species farmed.

Foreign partners are also stepping in. The China Overseas Port Holding Company has partnered with a Chinese aquaculture firm to develop deep-sea fish farming near Gwadar, building on seafood exports to China worth \$125 million in 2024. Meanwhile,

the Balochistan government is setting up a fish processing

plant in Gwadar and upgrading harbour facilities and roads to help fishermen reach markets faster.

Infrastructure upgrades are designed to position Gwadar as a regional logistics hub.

On 7 August, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs signed an agreement with China's Xinning Enterprise to expand Gwadar Port and develop industries in the adjoining Free Zone.

Minister Chaudhry called the deal a "milestone," saying it would "elevate Gwadar's commanding handling capacity and generate valuable employment and investment opportunities."

The port's South Free Zone now hosts a 2,000-tonne cold storage facility for seafood exports, while development of a larger North Free Zone is underway.

Quad summit participation of Trump in India uncertain

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States' refusal to mediate between Pakistan and India has become a major cause of India's diplomatic and economic decline, reported Business Standard.

According to the report, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's failed policies have left India isolated on the global stage.

Even US President Donald Trump's third-party involvement in the upcoming Quad Summit in New Delhi has become doubtful. The summit, scheduled for November, is expected to be attended by lead-

ers of Australia, Japan, and the US.

The New York Times report claimed that President Trump currently has no intention of visiting India for the Quad Summit.

Strains in US-India ties emerged after Trump repeatedly insisted on mediating in the Pakistan-India conflict, something New Delhi outrightly rejected. Trump has reiterated his claims of facilitating a ceasefire more than 40 times.

The situation worsened when the US imposed a 25 percent tariff on India for continuing oil purchases from

Russia, a move seen as punishment for not aligning with Washington's policies.

The report further noted that Trump has singled out India with these heavy tariffs.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misra later clarified that Prime Minister Modi had categorically rejected any mediation, telling Trump that India would never accept third-party involvement in its disputes with Pakistan.

Despite this, Trump dismissed Modi's stance and continued repeating his mediation claims, reportedly angering the Indian leadership.

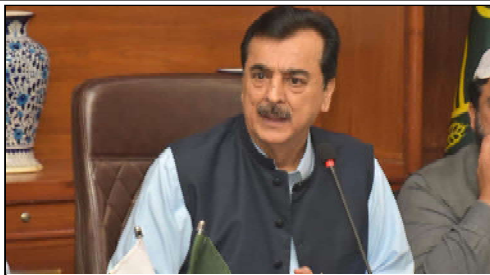
Tensions between the two leaders became evident when Modi and Trump skipped a planned meeting after the G7 Summit, with Trump leaving early for Washington.

Their disagreements over mediation and Trump's refusal to support Modi's bid for the Nobel Peace Prize further widened the rift.

Observers say Modi's rigid and uncompromising approach has closed global doors on India, leaving its people and investors facing an uncertain and unstable future.



QUETTA: A rally led by Naeem Ahmed Madni passing through Manan Chowk in connection with Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) celebration.



MULTAN: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusef Raza Gillani chairing a meeting with members of PFUJ at South Punjab Secretariat.

Syed Ali Gilani's 4th martyrdom anniversary to be observed tomorrow

SRINAGAR (INP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control will observe the fourth martyrdom anniversary of the legendary Hurriyat leader, Syed Ali Gilani, tomorrow, September 01, with renewed resolve to carry forward his mission of freedom.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Syed Ali Gilani died in Indian captivity on 1st September in 2021 at his residence in Srinagar, where he had been kept under continued house arrest for over a decade.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference

has urged people to visit Hyderabad's graveyards where Syed Ali Gilani is buried to offer fatiha for the martyred leader and other Kashmiri martyrs. It also urged the imams and khatibs to hold special prayers for the towering leader and other Kashmiri martyrs in the mosques.

The APHC appealed across the world to raise voice to draw the attention of the international community towards the Indian brutalities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The statement said that the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs would not be allowed to go

waste and their mission will be accomplished at all costs.

Syed Ali Gilani's unwavering dedication to the Kashmiri cause will inspire generations to come, the APHC said adding that his spirit of resistance continues to fuel the Kashmiris' struggle for freedom, while his lifelong quest for Jammu and Kashmir's accession to Pakistan remains a testament to his unshakable resolve. "The profound imprint of his leadership is eternally etched in Kashmir's history," it further said.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference said that the slogan "Hum Pakistan Hain, Pakistan Hamara Hai" endures as a symbol of Gilani's vision. Carrying forward his mission is the greatest tribute to his legacy.

Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Young Men's League, Muslim League, Peoples League, Jammu and Kashmir National Front, Young Men's League, Kashmir Tehreek-e-Khawateen and other Hurriyat organizations in their statements in Srinagar said that Gilani's principled stand on the Kashmir dispute earned him unmatched respect and admiration.

Pakistan on high alert as India releases more water into Chenab

ISLAMABAD (INP): The River Chenab is expected to be in high flood in the next 24 to 36 hours as India on Sunday opened all spillways of the swollen Salal Dam.

prompting the authorities to issue yet another warning of a flood in the river.

On the other hand, over 2,000 villages have been flooded, crops grown over millions of acres of land have been destroyed while over 1.5 million people have been rendered homeless due to the floods that have wreaked havoc from Sialkot to Lahore, Kasur to Bahawalnagar and Gujrat to Jhang.

Meanwhile, the death toll from floods has risen to 33, while the river was in extremely high flood at Head Balokhi and Chichawatni till last reports came in.

On the other hand, the water level in the

river at Jassar has again started rising. Similarly, the River Sutlej was in extremely high flood at Ganda Singh Wala.

After losing their homes and belongings to floods, residents of the Theme Park in Lahore have appealed to the government for help.

The ordeal of 10,000 residents of the housing society began four days ago when the water from the River Ravi spilled over into their homes, shops and roads.

Initially, the depth of the water was 20 feet. But later it came down to 12 feet. Water level in the River Ravi, which had once touched 220,000 cuses mark, has started dropping.

Similarly, at Siphon, 77,430 cuses of water is flowing, while at Shahdara it has now dropped to 76,700 cuses.

The River Sutlej, which is in high flood in Bahawalpur, burst its banks and flooded nearby villages, forcing the residents to shift to safe locations on their own. The affected people have appealed to the government to waive the loans they have borrowed under the Kissan Cards and Tractor schemes.

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Director-General Irfan Ali Kathia on Sunday said that over 2 million people were badly affected and 33 lost their lives due to floods in Punjab. Talking with the media, Irfan Ali Kathia said that "currently we are focused on saving the precious lives of the people in flood-affected areas."



PESHAWAR: Activists of united Municipal Workers Union hold a protest over unpaid salaries and pensions outside Peshawar Press Club (PPC).

SCO Museum opens in Beijing showcasing treasures from Pakistan

BEIJING, Aug 31 (INP): The exhibition "Collections from Museums of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States" opened here in National Museum of China, organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China.

The exhibition will run until November 16, 2025, and features rare cultural relics spanning thousands of years of history from across the SCO region, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Among the highlights are ancient Buddhist Hellenistic influences. A striking Buddha

head from the late Neolithic period, including a globular pot painted with geometric motifs and a gray ware shallow bowl adorned with swirling fish and water plants.

Visitors are also drawn to an intricately carved seal of the Indus Civilization, believed to have been used in trade, offering evidence of advanced commerce and administrative systems.

The exhibition also brings forward the artistic legacy of Gandhara, renowned for its fusion of Buddhist traditions with Hellenistic influences. A striking Buddha

head from Taxila demonstrates fine craftsmanship with wavy hair, elongated earlobes, and serene downcast eyes.

Equally compelling is a Jain ritual tank from the Islamabad Museum collection, decorated with birds, oil lamps, and snakes, symbolizing cosmology and the balance of natural elements.

Chinese visitors said, "The exhibition is a window into the shared history of our region. Seeing these masterpieces up close not only deepens our understanding

of Pakistan's cultural heritage but also highlights the Silk Road connections that continue to unite our nations."

Aman Ullah, Director General of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan said that there are ten unique artifacts selected from National Museum Islamabad to reflect all evolutionary and historical eras in Pakistan.

He added that there is a lot of linkages between China and Pakistan as culturally rich countries and long history of their culture and traditions.

Indian Spy with Afghan Citizenship Jailed for 20 Years in Pakistan on Espionage and Terrorism Charges

Monitoring Desk: An Indian national, Usman, the son of Abdul Rehman, has been sentenced to 20 years in prison on charges related to espionage and terrorism. Usman, who also holds Afghan citizenship, was arrested by security forces at the Chaman border in Balochistan while attempting to cross into Pakistan. According to sources, Usman had been under surveillance for several months before his capture. Intelligence reports suggested his involvement in espionage and terrorist activities aimed at destabilizing the province. He was reportedly attempting to enter Pakistan with the intent to carry out covert operations for Indian Intelligence Agencies. Authorities have emphasized the severity of the charges against Usman, labeling his actions as a direct threat to national security. Espionage and terrorism are severe offenses, particularly

BREAKING NEWS

when they involve foreign nationals attempting to undermine the sovereignty of Pakistan.

Usman's dual citizenship — Indian and Afghan — raised concerns about the cross-border espionage and terrorist operations. The government has called on international bodies to take note of Indian cross border interference. The trial, which took place in a

special court, found Usman guilty of espionage and supporting terrorist activities in Balochistan.

The 20-year sentence is seen as a signal of Pakistan's determination to tackle foreign interference on its soil. Indian officials have yet to respond to the conviction amid already strained diplomatic tensions between the two countries after India's humiliating defeat in Marka e Haq.

President Zardari Approves Mahfooz Ali Khan as Balochistan's Representative in 11th NFC

News Desk: QUETTA: President Asif Ali Zardari has given formal approval for the appointment of Mahfooz Ali Khan as Balochistan's non-official representative in the 11th National Finance Commission (NFC). The decision, made on the recommendation of the Balochistan government, replaces the earlier nomination, according to an announcement from the President's Secretariat.

The 11th NFC was constituted on August 22, 2025, with Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb designated as its Chairman. The commission includes the finance min-



MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN

the NFC plays a crucial role in determining how financial resources, grants, and debt responsibilities are shared between the federation and the provinces.

The inaugural meeting of the commission, originally set for August 29, has been postponed due to the devastating floods currently affecting several parts of the country.

President Zardari emphasized that equitable and transparent distribution of resources between the centre and provinces is not just a constitutional requirement but also vital for strengthening national harmony and economic stability.

Pakistan and Armenia forge diplomatic relations: FO

NEWS DESK: Pakistan and Armenia on Sunday formally established diplomatic relations, the Foreign Office (FO) announced in a statement.

Earlier this week, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said that Pakistan agreed to consider establishing diplomatic relations with Armenia after a phone call with counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan.

According to the FO, Islamabad and Yerevan formally established diplomatic relations by exchanging a joint communiqué in Tianjin, on the sidelines of the ongoing Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit.

"Marking a historic step forward, both the leaders affirmed their commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter and discussed possible avenues of cooperation, including economy, education, cul-

ture, and tourism," the FO statement read.

The two leaders reaffirmed their desire to work closely with each other at bilateral and multilateral fora, to achieve their shared objectives of peace, progress, and prosperity for the peoples of their two countries.

In a post on X, Dar wrote that he was pleased to sign the joint communiqué with his Armenian counterpart and echoed the FO's remarks on affirming their commitment to the principles of the UN Charter.

The FM also attached photos of himself and Mirzoyan signing and exchanging the document, flanked by their national flags.

Until today, Pakistan and Armenia did not have formal diplomatic relations. The relationship is characterised by a regional geopolitical rivalry, with Pakistan

supporting Azerbaijan against Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as per the Press Information Department.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hailed US President Donald Trump's peace efforts following his role in brokering the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace deal. "Pakistan welcomes the historic peace agreement signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia at the White House Summit under the auspices of US President Donald J Trump."

"The premier wrote in a statement on X.

He congratulated both countries on "charting a course for a peaceful future for their region," stating: "Pakistan has always stood by the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan and we stand with them at this proud moment of their history."

Balochistan Government Orders Suspension of 3G/4G Internet Services on August 30 and September 6

Qaseem Shah: QUETTA: The Balochistan government has directed the suspension of 3G and 4G mobile internet services across the province on August 30 and September 6, 2025, citing security threats and law and order concerns.

According to an official notification issued by the Home Department, the decision has been taken in light of "peculiar law and order situations and existing threat alerts." Internet services will remain jammed throughout the province on the mentioned dates to avoid any potential untoward incidents.

The blanket shutdown, however, is expected to create severe challenges for the public. Students preparing for examinations, businessmen relying on digital transactions, and freelancers working online will all be affected. Consumers from different walks of life, including journalists and healthcare professionals, have

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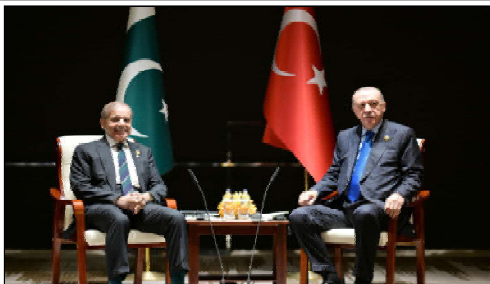
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Balochistan deepen the digital divide and isolate the province further from the rest of the country. They have urged the government to adopt more balanced measures that ensure both public safety and uninterrupted connectivity.



LAHORE: Iqbal University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Iqbal Din Ujan distributes certificate among participant of four day "Medical Undergraduate Research Conference" at LUMHS.



TIJANJIN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State.

PM Shehbaz praises China's advanced use of technology, modern techniques in disaster management

BEIJING (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has praised China's advanced use of technology and modern techniques in disaster management, expressing confidence that Pakistan can greatly benefit from this expertise to strengthen its own preventive and response strategies.

During a visit to the National Facility for Earthquake Engineering Simulation at Tianjin University, PM Shehbaz Sharif was briefed on state-of-the-art technologies, including medical rescue vehicles and disaster-preparedness systems.

He said adopting such innovations would enable Pakistan to

take effective precautionary measures against natural calamities, particularly in light of the ongoing floods.

Highlighting the importance of bilateral collaboration, Shehbaz Sharif directed that projects such as the China-Pakistan Joint Lab for Disaster and Emergency Medicine and the International Medical Cooperation Center be made more functional.

He stressed that the scope of cooperation should be expanded under the Belt and Road Initiative to enhance resilience against future disasters.

Pakistan Floods 2025: LIVE Updates: The premier also re-

viewed Pakistan's ongoing flood relief efforts, noting that additional convoys of supplies have been dispatched to Narowal, Sialkot, Wazirabad, Hafizabad, Chinnot, and Jhang, to be delivered through the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

PM Shehbaz Sharif NDMA to maintain close coordination with Punjab authorities and ensure uninterrupted relief operations. Reaffirming his government's commitment, Shehbaz Sharif said that comprehensive relief and rehabilitation measures will continue until affected families are fully supported.

Punjab CM hails 'biggest' rescue efforts as evacuations continue in flood-hit districts

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Nadda has said that the province is facing "the biggest evacuation and rescue operation in our history" as heavy floods continue to affect large parts of the province.

More than 600,000 people and around 450,000 animals have so far been evacuated from submerged areas. T

he chief minister visited the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) headquarters in Lahore, where he was briefed by officials on the evolving flood situation. Commissioners and deputy commissioners across Punjab also joined the session via video link. CM Maryam was assured that the provincial government and temporary shelters were being provided to flood victims across affected districts.

Speaking after the briefing, he said Punjab is facing a crisis not seen in decades, worsened by continuous monsoon rainfall and water flows entering Pakistan after spillways were opened across the border in India. "Our rivers are overflowing," he said, adding that a five-tier response plan has been activated with evacuation as the top prior-

ity. Maryam said timely evacuations had prevented an even greater tragedy.

"Containing this level of flooding with all resources was not humanly possible, but our officials responded promptly," she said. Over 600,000 people have already been moved to safe zones while livestock has been relocated on barges and through veterinary camps.

Districts currently under severe threat include Jhang, Muzaffargarh, Multan and Okara. Authorities have been instructed to ensure their preparedness is "airtight" and to continue moving people and animals away from floodplains.

The Punjab CM directed officials to set up tent villages, use school buildings as shelters, and ensure mobile bathrooms and segregated facilities for families. "Our people should not have to call us in distress — our field formations must know the ground reality of every street and every village," she said.

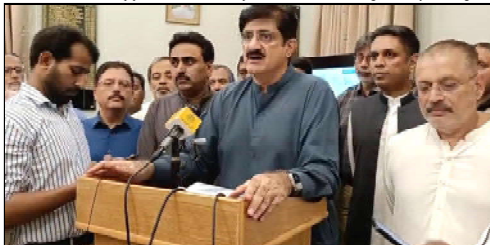
Mobile clinics and "Clinics on Wheels" have been dispatched to provide medicines, vaccines and antitoxins in flood zones. Relief operations are also

distributing both cooked meals and dry rations to affected families, along with fodder and water for animals.

So far, 511 relief camps and 351 medical camps have been set up across the province, with 321 veterinary centres established for cattle treatment. PDMA officials reported that at least 30 people have died due to drowning, while lightning strikes in Lahore caused two additional fatalities.

Rescue 1122 said it has evacuated 92,844 people from riverside settlements, including over 20,000 from Bahawalpur and thousands more from Kasur, Okara, Pakpattan and other districts. More than 808 boats and 1,800 trained scouts are operating across Punjab. Punjab Police have deployed 15,000 personnel, who have so far rescued more than 38,000 men, 27,000 women and 25,000 children. They also moved over 82,000 cattle to safe ground.

Meanwhile, PDMA has warned that a powerful flood wave of up to 700,000 cusecs could reach Multan in the coming hours, where controlled breaches may be needed to save the city. Flood levels remain high in the Sutlej, Ravi and Chenab rivers, with hundreds of villages already submerged.



SUKKUR: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah taking to media during his visit to Sukkur Barrage.

Floods rip through 2,300 villages, death toll climbs to 33 in Punjab

LAHORE (INP): As many as 2,300 villages have been flooded, crops grown over millions of acres of land have been destroyed while over 1.5 million people have been affected due to the floods that have wreaked havoc from Sialkot to Lahore, Kasur to Bahawalnagar and Gujrat to Jhang.

On the other hand, the death toll from floods has risen to 33, while over 600,000 people have been evacuated, thousands of cattle

have perished; the road connection between villages and cities has been severed and internet services have been suspended.

As many as 180 villages have been flooded while crops grown over hundreds of acres of land have been destroyed after the River Chenab burst its banks in Jhang. People stuck in floodwaters were shifted to safe locations

on boats.

The water flow at Head Trimmu has risen to 260,000 cusecs while the river was in high flood at Head Khanki and Qadirabad till last reports came in.

Water from the River Ravi entered 140 villages in tehsil Shujaabad of Multan, while the river was in extremely high flood at Head Baloki and Chichawatni till last reports came in.

On the other hand, the water level in the river at Jasrah has again started rising. Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Director-General Irfan Ali Kathia on Sunday said that over 2 million people were badly affected and 33 lost their lives due to floods in Punjab.

Talking with the media, Irfan Ali Kathia said that "currently we are focused on saving the pre-

cious lives of the people in flood-affected areas."

He said that three rivers in Punjab are facing a flood situation. The flow of floodwater at Head Trimmu reached 361,633 cusecs.

Irfan Ali Kathia revealed that a decrease was recorded in floodwater in the River Sutlej at Kasur. He said that PDMA is conducting the biggest rescue operation in the history of Punjab.

The PDMA DG said that the best care and facilities are being provided to people in flood relief camps. Irfan Ali Kathia said, "The drainage of floodwater will take time as rains have already started in Punjab."

The DG said that due to the rains, we have to tackle urban flooding. Irfan Ali Kathia said that about 2200 villages were badly affected due to floods.