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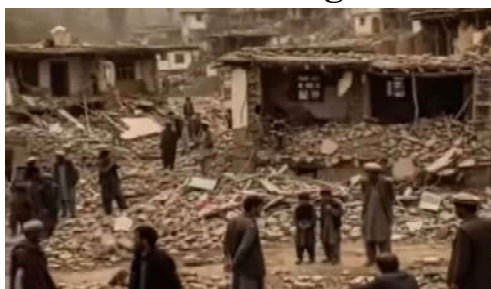
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Tuesday 02
September, 2025

UNICEF, Balochistan CM Discuss Health, Education, and Polio Eradication Initiatives

Afghanistan Earthquake Kills Over 800, Leaves Thousands Homeless in Kunar and Nangarhar



Monitoring Desk:

KABUL: A powerful earthquake struck eastern Afghanistan late Sunday night, killing more than 800 people and leaving over 1,500 others injured, officials confirmed on Monday.

The 6.0-magnitude quake, which shook Kunar and Nangarhar provinces near midnight, caused widespread devastation. Kunar was the hardest hit, with at least 610 fatalities and 1,300 injured, according to the Ministry of Interior.

In Nangarhar, 12 deaths and 255 injuries were reported. Hundreds of homes built with mud and weak concrete collapsed, leaving thousands without shelter.

Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani has directed local authorities and security forces to immediately reach the affected districts and speed up rescue and relief operations. Emergency teams are struggling to recover survivors from under the debris, while hospitals in both provinces are overwhelmed with the injured.

Afghanistan lies on multiple seismic fault lines where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet, making it one of the most earthquake-prone countries in Asia.

Experts say the shallow depth of the tremor—less than eight kilometers—intensified the destruction. The country has faced similar tragedies in the past.

In June 2022, a 5.9-magnitude earthquake in eastern Afghanistan killed at least 1,000 people and injured over 3,000, marking the deadliest quake in two decades.

As rescue operations continue, humanitarian agencies are warning of further hardship for survivors who now face homelessness, lack of medical care, and the urgent need for food and clean water.



Balochistan High Court Issues Notice on Extension of Green Bus Service Route to Saryab Customs Check Post

PM Shehbaz raises Indus Waters Treaty issue at SCO, calls for dialogue on all outstanding disputes

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday raised the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) issue at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) summit in China and called for a "structural" dialogue on all outstanding disputes.

PM Shehbaz arrived in China on Saturday to attend the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) summit held from August 31 to September 1. Besides Pakistan, the SCO comprises China, India, Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus. Another 16 countries are affiliated as observers or "dialogue partners".

"We respect all international and bilateral treaties and expect similar principles to be followed by all SCO members," PM Shehbaz said at the summit today, in an apparent reference to the IWT in abeyance following India's unilateral move to hold the IWT in abeyance in April.

"Uninterrupted access to due share of water as per existing treaties among SCO members will strengthen the SCO working smoothly and will support the achievement of broader goals for which the SCO was established," he stressed at the summit in China's



Tianjin. India held the IWT in abeyance following the April 22 attack in occupied Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 — an incident New Delhi PM Shehbaz called for a "comprehensive and structural dialogue to discuss all outstanding disputes", adding "I will request your consideration to lead this dialogue under your sagacious leadership so that they can have its dividends as early as possible."

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Earlier this month, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague issued a "Supplemental Award of Competence" in the case, stating that India cannot unilaterally hold the treaty in abeyance.

Floods continue to wreak havoc across Punjab, death toll rises to 41

NEWS DESK: Punjab is grappling with the worst flooding in its history, with death toll rising to 41 while more than 2.4 million people affected and thousands of villages inundated, according to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

DG PDMA Fraz Ali Kathia told reporters on Monday that heavy monsoon rains and rising river levels have inundated at least 3,100 villages and nearly 2,900 hamlets across the province.

He said rescue agencies are conducting the largest operation in history, with more than 900,000 residents have so far been evacuated to safer locations. Floodwaters have also forced the shifting of over 600,000 livestock. The provincial livestock department has provided feed and shelter for the animals. Authorities have established 390 relief camps to house displaced families.

Kathia mentioned that no new surge has entered Pakistan from India through Head Marala, although heavy rainfall continues to push water levels higher in various tributaries. At Nullah Leh in Rawalpindi, flood levels reached 19 feet at Katarian Bridge following fresh downpours.

Authorities briefed the chief minister at Head Trimmu, mentioning that controlled breaches have been carried out in some areas—including Rewas Bridge —to lessen the pressure on flood-hit districts including Jhang.

It is expected that water from the Chenab will reach Multan on Tuesday, combining with inflows from the Ravi. At Sadhana, a major flood surge could require a breach near Saffera overnight, potentially affecting 14 villages and 17,000 acres of land.

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Balochistan High Court Issues Notice on Extension of Green Bus Service Route to Saryab Customs Check Post

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court has issued notices to the provincial and regional transport authorities regarding the extension of the Green Bus Service route from the University of Balochistan to the Saryab Customs Check Post.

A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Kozi Khan Barech and Justice Sardar Ahmed Halimi heard the constitutional petition filed by Advocate Syed Nazir Agha. The petitioner argued that currently, the Green Bus Service only operates between Balochi Customs Check Post and the University of Balochistan, while a large number of low-income residents living beyond the university up to the Saryab Customs Check Post remain deprived of this essential facility.



The petitioner's counsel stressed that access to affordable and reliable public transport is a basic right of citizens. Taking notice of the matter, the court summoned the Secretaries of the Provincial Transport Authority and the Regional Transport Authority on September 4, 2025, to explain why the route has not yet been extended to Saryab Customs.

Further hearing of the case is scheduled for September 4, 2025.

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UNICEF, Balochistan CM Discuss Health, Education, and Polio Eradication Initiatives

Qasem Shah:

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti met UNICEF's Country Representative in Pakistan, Pernille Ironside, at the Chief Minister's House in Quetta on Monday. The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration in polio eradication, routine immunization, education, and public health.

During the discussion, both sides agreed that effective coordination and integrated strategies are essential to ensure long-term public welfare. UNICEF also offered specialized training programs to enhance the technical capacity of Balochistan's health department staff.

Chief Minister Bugti highlighted the provincial government's ongoing reforms in health and education. He said that extraordinary resources have been allocated to strengthen the primary healthcare system, improve routine immunization campaigns, and accelerate the fight against polio.

He noted that the government is rapidly hiring staff on a contract basis to address shortages in the health and education sectors, ensuring that communities at the grassroots level have access to essential services. The Chief Minister added that over the past year, 3,200 previously



closed schools have been reopened, while 1,200 new community schools are planned for this year.

"By the end of this year, no school in Balochistan will remain closed," he vowed Bugti also shared that the provincial government is closely monitoring potential flood threats in districts bordering Sindh and has finalized precautionary measures to minimize risks to local populations.

On women's empowerment, he announced the establishment of the province's first Women Economic Empowerment Endowment Fund, which aims to promote female participation in the economy and foster self-reliance among women.

The Chief Minister appreciated UNICEF's ongoing support in health, education, and child welfare, emphasizing that international partnerships are making development projects in Balochistan more sustainable and impactful.

UNICEF Country Representative Pernille Ironside reaffirmed the organization's commitment to working with the Balochistan government. She stressed that improving children's education, health, and protection remains UNICEF's top priority in the province.

QUETTA VOICE

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 Sarfraz Bugti rightly underscored the urgency of mobilizing resources to safeguard communities from natural calamities that are growing in frequency and intensity.

Floods In Buzair

The tragic flash floods in the Buzair area of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa this month, which claimed precious human lives, are a grim reminder of Pakistan's extreme vulnerability. The province, prone not only to flooding 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. 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 Pakistan can fight alone. Partnerships with international allies, such as the United Kingdom, are essential in bringing technical expertise, innovative solutions, and funding support. Training local institutions, particularly in areas like disaster man-

agement and environmental governance, 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 reforms 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 making it a success. In the face of a grim warning, every delay carries a cost in human lives and economic stability. The Chief Minister must now take all possible steps to translate the promise of the Climate Fund into tangible protections for the people of Balochistan.

By Dr Muhammad Ali Ehsan:

SCO Summit and the geopolitical road ahead

The 25th SCO Summit is scheduled to be held in Tianjin, China, from August 31 to September 1, 2025. This much-awaited summit needs to be seen in the context of not only what China is doing but also the geopolitical alignment that India might be seeking. The last time PM Modi of India attended an SCO summit in person was in 2022. The 2023 SCO Heads of State Summit was held virtually, with PM Modi chairing the event.

One of the reasons that brings Modi back to SCO and most importantly, to China, the host country, is the 50% tariff snub it got from President Trump. India considered this American act as unjust and irresponsible. Unjust because China is the largest importer of Russian oil, yet it is not sanctioned, but India was. So the diplomatic response by India was in line with how it chose to serve its national interest. We will not be told whom we can buy from and from whom we cannot, said India, thus laying the ground for seeking strategic autonomy. Modi heads to China, understanding the geopolitical weight of the SCO. If India won't export to the US, it will seek alternate markets of the SCO and BRICS as well as access to their resources and the energy reserves.

India's refusal to join BRI is based on the fact that such an action would undermine its sovereignty. CPEC is the flagship project of BRI, and India fears that joining BRI might legitimise Pakistan's claim over the disputed Kashmir territory that India claims and Pakistan holds. If India is seeking a broad geopolitical alignment, which means mending its relations with China despite the territorial and land disputes with it, then the circle of this broad geopolitical alignment will not be complete unless India considers mending its relations with Pakistan as well. Events shape geopolitical trends. The upcoming Heads of States SCO Summit is one such event that will definitely contribute to accelerating the geopolitical trend of the demise of American primacy. This SCO summit is unique in the sense that twenty countries are participating in it — the largest number to have ever participated in an SCO summit. This is the beginning, and with every subsequent year, the number of countries attending may rise. Both SCO and BRICS and their membership are likely to become bigger and larger as their attractive economies suck in more and more countries of the Global South.

There is this old quote that a common enemy brings the adversaries together. In the changing geopolitical structure of the world, the US is likely to stand out not as the common enemy but as a losing global hegemon that may be left stranded because it fails to get its act together. Already, SCO and BRICS together hold 35% of the total share of the global output, which is 8% more than the 27% of the same output that G-7 countries hold. Global North, which constituted the core, and Global South was the gap. But given this difference in share of the global output by the countries of the Global South, the rich core of the global economy seems to be gradually shifting towards the Global South.

Demographically as well, the US represents 4.5% of the world's population while China, Russia and India combined represent almost 40% of the world's population. What SCO and BRICS member countries can initiate as a geopolitical trend is similar to a geopolitical trend that the US initiated after World War II.

Within a week of the Allied forces victory, the US cancelled its Lend-Lease Program for Britain and replaced it with a loan on commercial terms that Britain could not afford. The US action clearly suggested that a rising power was capitalising on the demise and loss of status of a declining power. What indignity was left for Britain to suffer, as a declining power, was completed when, in 1956, the Anglo-French invasion was undertaken to retake the Suez Canal, which was nationalised by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. President Eisenhower of the US didn't like Britain's idea of undertaking the invasion of a strategically important zone without prior consultation. Britain's global aspirations ended when it was forced to withdraw its forces. Post Suez Canal withdrawal, the geopolitical trend of Britain's decline and demise as a great power reached its culminating point.

Currently, there is no Lend-Lease agreement between the existing three great powers and India as a rising power. What the major powers in SCO and BRICS can do is understand that there can be differences but not disputes, that there can be competition but not conflict. The US Achilles' heel is based on misunderstanding this concept. It has become too powerful to resist the temptation of projecting its power in all the negative ways. India is the only country in the world that has been subjected to 50% tariffs, which is an act that is both humiliating and provocative. By imposing huge tariffs on India, all that the US has done is push India into the Russo-Sino orbit. Two days after the end of the SCO summit, China celebrates its victory over Japan in a victory day parade. There is also a Modi-Putin Summit scheduled in India later this year. India will also act as the host nation for BRICS in 2026. So, there are many opportunities for one-on-one meetings between these leaders of the Global South. As the world travels down the geopolitical road, the US stands out as a great power that is a borrower and under \$3.5 trillion in debt, which is way more than the annual output of its goods and services. The tariffs and the sanctions that it has imposed is already bringing together 60% of the world's population. India holds 38% of the world's GDP. The SCO Summit and similar events showcase that change. It is not only the aspiration for change but also how the change is brought about, which is more important. No change can be brought about unless the leaders of great powers create conditions for that change to be put into practice. Under the changing geopolitical conditions, the onus lies with India not only to mend its ways with China but also with Pakistan. If this is done, the road ahead can only be one of regional peace and prosperity.

Gaza's obituary

AS much of Gaza and its inhabitants now sleep forever under the rubble of what used to be homes, it is time for people around the world to write their obituaries. Typically, an obituary is a note of remembrance, a tender act of affection where the living pay tribute to their deceased loved ones. But Gaza's obituary cannot be written like other obituaries. The obituary of Gaza is not of a person, but of dreams, ambitions and independence. Gaza's obituary does not only mourn the death of people but also the death of humanity, the burial of international law and the demise of the world.

Traditionally, an obituary starts with identifying the deceased, their name, their age, their place of belonging, their moment of passing. In Gaza, however, to name the dead is impossible for every child who starts with the sound of life giving way to death and ends with death taking more of the grief and hunger-stricken with it.

To speak of age is futile, for the earth now cradles the bones of children who feel the embrace of their mothers, children clutching toys, students holding books, mothers holding unborn babies who had yet to see the world, fathers who buried their children, and elders who once championed the stories of Muslim unity. Time itself has collapsed in Gaza, the unmarked graves house the young and old alike, all of them becoming examples of Israel's naked aggression.

Post identification, an obituary speaks of what the departed loved and what their legacy would be. For Gaza and its people, what they loved was life and the basic liberties which life is supposed to bring — the moistness of their olives, the bustle of the sea, a freshly caught fish, the laughter of children in alleyways and their defiant refusal to bow to despair. What they valued was life, unadorned but dignified.

By Syed Shehryar Raza Zaidi:

Mass ecocide

TWO recent, seemingly separate incidents have thrown sharp light on Pakistan's relationship with residential real estate. The first was the purported legal (and political) troubles of Bahria Town, which culminated in a message from its founder stating that insolvency and operational breakdown in its residential schemes were fast approaching.

The second incident occurred during the recent flooding of the eastern rivers in Punjab. When water levels rose downstream from Jassar and Shaladara, a large number of residential streets in Park View City, a housing project built almost entirely in the ravine, were inundated and had to be evacuated.

The cause for both incidents is considerably different — palace intrigue and political machinations in the first, and nature colliding with human hubris and greed in the second.

Yet they elicited similar types of discussion.

In both incidents, the fate of residents was a subject of much hand-wringing and concern.

The key debate is on the extent of middle-class complicity in encouraging destructive patterns of real estate development in Pakistan.

In both examples, some people consider insolvency and operational breakdown, or devastation at the hands of nature, as poetic justice.

By Umair Javed:

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 extended whereas, drinking water must be free from any 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 (Contaminated and E. Coli) are those bacteria that originate from wastes and intestines of animals and humans, the source of drinking water, therefore fresh and clean water supply need to be prioritized.

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KP CM orders indiscriminate action against encroachments, expeditious relief work

PESHAWAR (INP): Chief Minister Paktunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur, chaired a video-link meeting to review relief and rehabilitation efforts in flood-affected areas.

The meeting also focused on compensation payments, restoration of infrastructure, and measures to prevent future damage.

During the briefing, officials informed the Chief Minister that compensation had been paid to the families of 352 out of 411 deceased victims, with a total of Rs 704 million disbursed so far. Out of 132 injured persons, 60 had been compensated with Rs 30 million. Similarly, among 571 fully destroyed houses, owners of 367 had received payments, while out of 1,983 partially damaged houses, compensation had been given to 1,094

owners. So far, Rs 595 million has been disbursed for damaged homes, with the remaining payments expected to be completed within the next two days. Additionally, 29,631 food packages have been distributed among affected families.

Chief Minister Gandapur directed officials to expedite the remaining compensation process and immediately initiate rehabilitation efforts afterwar.

He instructed deputy commissioners to personally monitor the restoration of damaged government infrastructure and prepare PC-1s in the field rather than from offices.

The Chief Minister further announced plans for a major one-time project involving desilting of rivers and construction of protective embankments to minimize future flood damage. Deputy commission-

ers were tasked with identifying priority areas for this initiative.

Emphasizing strict action, Gandapur directed that all encroachments along rivers and waterways be removed without discrimination. Notices should be served first, followed by immediate action if violations persist.

He also called for the installation of prefabricated structures to quickly restore damaged schools and health centers, along with preventive measures to curb the spread of potential epidemics in flood-hit areas.

Appreciating the performance of the provincial administration, Gandapur said the timely rescue, relief operations, and swift disbursement of compensation reflect improved governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Division Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari in a meeting with United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator to Pakistan, Mohamed Yahya.

Punjab awards top civil honour to late Pattoki AC Furqan

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab government has decided to confer the province's highest civil award on deceased Pattoki Assistant Commissioner Furqan Ahmed Khan, who passed away while serving people in testing circumstances.

His family will also receive a grant of Rs10 million in recognition of his services.

According to officials, Furqan Ahmed continued to perform relief duties in the field for four consecutive days despite suffering from cancer. He worked tirelessly to ensure that flood-affected families in Pattoki received food, medicines, and other essential supplies.

Punjab Chief Minister

Maryam Nawaz paid rich tribute to the late officer, calling him "a true hero who sacrificed his life in the line of duty." She said Furqan Ahmed's dedication in the face of personal suffering would always be remembered as an example of selfless public service.

Those who sacrifice their lives while serving in difficult circumstances are real heroes," she remarked, adding that the officer's duty and courage had set a benchmark for others in public service.

Furqan Ahmed's story, they said, highlights the resilience and dedication of Pakistan's civil service in times of crisis.

A day earlier, the Pattoki assistant commissioner had

passed away at Head Balloki amid ongoing flood relief efforts.

According to officials, the Ravi River caused widespread devastation in the area in recent days, and the AC had been continuously engaged in duty, working day and night in flood-hit regions for the past four days without rest.

Furqan collapsed at the Head Balloki rest house after suffering a brain haemorrhage. He was rushed to the Phoolnagar Trauma Center, but doctors confirmed he had already passed away. News of his death cast a pall of grief over the area, with locals mourning the loss of the officer who had been on the frontlines of the relief operations.

More water from India enters Punjab; Sindh faces super flood risk

MULTAN, Sept 01 (INP): Fears of a super flood in Sindh escalated on Monday as a massive inflow from India entered Pakistan through Rangpur, inundating dozens of villages and cutting off road access.

According to flood forecasts, 1 million cuses of water is expected to reach Head Panjnad between September 2 and 3, while Goddu Barrage is likely to receive 800,000 to 1.1 million cuses between September 5 and 6, raising alarms across Sindh.

In Dadu district, floodwaters surged into three union councils of the katcha (riverine) belt, submerging villages and homes. Locals were forced to evacuate by boat. Over 30 villages in UC Sid, Munder, and Pat Sharif were flooded, leading to severe shortages of food and drinking water.

In Khairpur, the flood wreaked havoc in the katcha belt, submerging multiple villages. Even 11 police stations were completely washed away, forcing police personnel to vacate and shift to embankments. The Sindh Edu-

cation Department declared over 1,000 government primary schools across Larkana district as flood relief camps.

A notification issued by District Officer Primary Anis Jilani confirmed that 32,900 flood victims will be accommodated in classrooms across four tehsils — Larkana (307), Ratodero (308), Bakarni (214), and Dekri (146).

Meanwhile, in Punjab, the situation remains equally critical. Flood Commissioner Punjab confirmed that over 2,200 villages and 2.3 million people have been affected so far.

At Trimmu Headworks, the water flow surged to 700,000 cuses by Monday evening, with a massive flood expected to hit Head Marala within two days.

The Sutlej and Ravi rivers at Bholi reached extremely high flood levels, with rescue operations underway to evacuate women, children, and the elderly via boats in Nowshera and Okara's Mari Patan.

In Jiang, the Chenab River flood devastated hundreds of

settlements, submerging link roads and highways. Key routes, including Sargodha Road, Pakkewala Bypass, and Pir Kot Masan Road, were submerged.

Heavy machinery from the Highways Department has been deployed for the restoration of roads, while Trimmu Barrage recorded an outflow of 479,000 cuses.

The Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) issued a high flood warning at Harke (Sutlej), putting district administrations of Lahore, Sahiwal, Multan, Bahawalpur, DG Khan, Kasur, Okara, Pakpattan, Vehari, Bahawalnagar, Lodhran, and Muzaffargarh on high alert.

Rescue teams and district administrations remain on the ground, but with rising inflows, experts fear the worst is yet to come.

Reporters: Shehzad Khan, Waqar Hussain Manghi, Kamran Korai, Abdul Khaliq Mughiri, Rana Pervaiz Akhtar, Malik Habib Lang, Wascent Aziz, Imran Joya, Shehzad Ahmed, Shehzad Khan and Fakhar Diwan.



PESHAWAR: Employee of tourism department chanting slogan for their demonstration at Peshawar Press Club (PPC).



TIJANJIN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with President of Islamic Republic of Iran, Masoud Pzeshkian on the sidelines of the Council of Heads of Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

PTI to boycott National Assembly sessions over lawmakers' treatment

NEWS DESK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Barrister Gohar said on Monday that the party would boycott National Assembly sessions in protest against what it called unfair treatment of its lawmakers.

"From now on, we will not attend National Assembly sittings. We will protest and boycott instead," said Gohar while speaking to reporters alongside other PTI members. In Islamabad.

He added that PTI's parliamentary party met at Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) House, heard instructions from the party founder, and endorsed them.

He accused authorities of

stripping PTI legislators of their seats, disqualifying them and silencing their voices.

"Even if we try to celebrate Independence Day, we are not allowed. Despite countless difficulties, we attended sessions to raise demands democratically, but we are not permitted to speak," he said.

Former speaker Asad Qaiser urged the federal government to support flood victims. "The K-P government is working for the flood-hit people. We will also appeal to our party founder to launch a fundraising call. We appeal to the United Nations to provide aid. It is the federal government's duty as well," he said.

K-P Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur reported severe devastation from heavy rains, particularly in Buner, Shangla, Swabi and Swat. "A flood surge of 12 to 14 feet destroyed homes. Our agencies rescued all people within 24 hours. So far, 490 people have lost their lives in the province," he said.

He said compensation was being distributed, with Rs2 million given to families of the deceased, Rs1 million for completely destroyed homes, and partial payments to the injured. "This is only support — you cannot rebuild a house with Rs1 million. But never in history has relief work been carried out at such speed," he added.

Embankments collapse, villages and crops swept away amid Punjab flood alerts

MULTAN (INP): Embankments collapsed, flooding vast swathes of land and submerging village after village as the Sutlej River sharply surged at Islam

Headworks, and the water level in the Ravi River climbed up to a dangerous level at Kamala on Monday.

At Head Islam, water discharge was recorded at 70,000 cuses, triggering a rapid rise in water levels. Dozens of low-lying villages were inundated, displacing thousands of people.

Near Luddan, a temporary protective embankment gave way, leaving more than 35 villages washed away. Crops of cotton, maize, sesame, and rice over thousands of acres were destroyed, compounding the crisis.

Women and children are facing severe hardships as locals scramble to safer ground. Rescue 1122, police, and volunteers remain engaged in emergency relief operations.

The flood situation worsened further upstream. At Head Ganda Singh Wala, the Sutlej carried 253,000 cuses, while Head Sulaimanki recorded 135,000 cuses, with flows moving downstream toward Head Islam.

Experts have warned that if a

larger wave arrives, the situation could turn catastrophic, urging swift scaling-up of relief measures.

The Ravi River has also turned perilous. At Kamalia, water flows surged to 185,000 cuses, submerging multiple villages and devastating crops, including rice and maize.

At Renala Khurd, high flood levels caused widespread destruction, cutting off land routes to several settlements, including Thatta Khachi and Thatta Chakar. The displaced are being shifted to flood relief camps set up by district administrations.

Heavy rainfall has intensified the crisis. Farmers lament that fodder for livestock has become scarce.

In Narowal, floodwaters damaged a major wheat warehouse after its walls and roof collapsed, spoiling 6,000 wheat sacks and inflicting losses worth millions of rupees.

Sialkot city on high alert as India releases water in Chenab. In Sialkot, authorities declared a high alert from September 1 to 3 amid reports that India released water from the Salal Dam, raising fears of further flooding in the River Chenab.

Yasmin Rashid moves LHC against ATC verdicts in May 9 cases

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid has filed appeals in the Lahore High Court (LHC) against the sentences handed down in three separate cases related to the May 9 incidents.

The petitioner argued that the anti-terrorism court (ATC) failed to properly assess the facts of the cases and that the verdicts are not supported by evidence.

The high court has been requested to suspend the sentences and order the release of Yasmin Rashid until a final decision is made on the appeals.

Dr. Rashid was sentenced to 10 years in prison in each of the three cases related to the attack

on Shadman Police Station, the arson near Sherpao Bridge and the burning of vehicles near Jinnah House.

The cases are part of a wider

crackdown following the violent protests on May 9, sparked by the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi presenting souvenir to Syed Zakria Ali Shah Additional Registrar, Supreme court of Pakistan on the occasion of his transfer to a new assignment at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Five aftershocks rock parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR (INP): A series of aftershocks continued after the magnitude 6 earthquake struck the upper and northern parts of the country, including Rawalpindi and Islamabad, besides Afghanistan, India and Tajikistan, late Sunday night.

The first aftershock, measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale, and having a depth of 155 kilometers, struck Peshawar, Manshehra, Swat, Abbottabad, Chitral and Hunza at 1:14 AM.

The same areas received another aftershock at 1:29 AM. This time it was measured at 4.6, while its depth was only 15 kilometers.

The third time these areas were jolted were at 1:37 AM. This time, the quake was measured at 4.2, while its depth was also 15 kilometers.

The fourth aftershock, measuring 4.1 on the Richter Scale, was received at 2:12 AM. This time, too, the depth of the quake was 15 kilometers.

An aftershock, measuring 5.2 and 15 kilometers deep, hit these areas and Murree at 2:34 AM. The epicenter of all these aftershocks was in Asadabad, in south-east of Afghanistan. No loss of life, property reported, says PDMA

On the other hand, the Punjab's Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) spokesman said that no loss of life or property was reported in the earthquake that shook a large swathe of the province, including Lahore.

He, however, said that the district administrations across the province were busy checking buildings in order to ascertain whether any damage was caused to them.

"Apart from that, the district emergency operation centers are alert 24/7," he said, and added that any damage could be reported on the PDMA's helpline number 1129.