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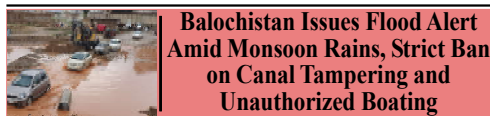
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Balochistan Issues Flood Alert Amid Monsoon Rains, Strict Ban on Canal Tampering and Unauthorized Boating

Quetta Blast Case Registered Under Terrorism Charges, CM Vows Justice



Qaseem Shah: Mengal (BNP-M) gathering, left at least 15 people dead and 36 others injured. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti condemned the attack in the strongest terms, calling it a cowardly attempt to destabilize the province. The FIR includes charges of murder, attempted murder, terrorism, use of explosives, and other serious offenses. The explosion, which ripped through a Balochistan National Party-

in their grief. Bugti emphasized that the provincial government was fully committed to restoring peace and strengthening security measures. He further instructed officials to provide the best possible medical care to the injured, including shifting critically wounded patients to Karachi via air ambulance if necessary. Authorities said security has been tightened across Quetta and other sensitive areas following the blast, while investigators are collecting evidence to trace those behind the attack. Political parties across the province, including BNP-M, PKMAP and National Party, have announced three days of mourning in solidarity with the victims. The Chief Minister also appealed to the public and political leadership to cooperate with security agencies, stressing that unity was crucial in defeating terrorism.

Balochistan Issues Flood Alert Amid Monsoon Rains, Strict Ban on Canal Tampering and Unauthorized Boating

Staff Reporter:

The Balochistan Home Department has issued an alert, warning of possible floods and damages as monsoon rains intensify across the province. According to officials, heavy rainfall could endanger lives, property, infrastructure, and irrigation assets, particularly in vulnerable districts.

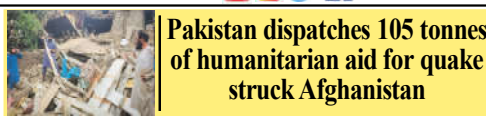
The department has declared that cutting, blocking, or tampering with canals, waterways, and drainage systems is strictly prohibited, especially in Nasirabad and Sibi divisions. Authorities have also banned unauthorized boating and swimming in rivers and canals to prevent accidents.

In addition, any interference with govern-



ment-led rescue or relief operations during potential flood emergencies has been declared illegal. The Home Department has directed police, Levies, and irrigation officials to enforce the orders strictly. Offenders will face arrest without a warrant and legal action for causing damage or obstruction.

Officials urged the public to cooperate with authorities and avoid risky activities, stressing that collective responsibility is vital to minimize the impact of monsoon-related disasters.



Pakistan dispatches 105 tonnes of humanitarian aid for quake struck Afghanistan

Deadly Quetta Explosion Claims 15 Lives, BNP-M Leaders Among Injured



Syed Ali Shah: QUETTA: At least 15 people were killed and 36 others injured in a powerful explosion at Shahwani Stadium in Quetta during a Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) gathering held to mark the death anniversary of veteran leader Sardar Atta Ullah Mengal.

Balochistan Health Minister confirmed the revised toll, stating that doctors and paramedical staff were on emergency duty. He added that the injured were being given immediate and best possible treatment, though the condition of several remained critical. Rescue teams shifted the wounded to Civil Hospital Quetta, where officials released a list of 29 patients under treatment. The deceased included Ishaq, Najeebullah, Shan, Hanif, and Madad Khan.

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti strongly condemned the attack, terming it a cowardly act aimed at spreading fear. He expressed solidarity with the victims' families and directed health authorities to ensure proper medical care for

the injured. The provincial government has ordered a high-level inquiry and formed a committee to investigate the causes and identify those responsible. Security forces cordoned off the area soon after the incident and began collecting evidence.

BNP leader Sajid Tareen Advocate said the party had already expressed concerns about possible security threats and had informed the

district administration in advance. He confirmed that former MPA Ahmed Nawaz and senior party leader Musa Baloch were among those injured.

According to the Home Department, rescue operations were carried out immediately while investigators launched a formal probe into the blast. Security has been tightened across Quetta and other sensitive areas in the af-

termath of the bombing. Meanwhile, political parties including BNP-M, Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) and National Party (NP) announced three days of mourning to condemn the attack. In their statements, they held the provincial government responsible for failing to provide adequate security and demanded that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

Pakistan dispatches 105 tonnes of humanitarian aid for quake struck Afghanistan

NEWS DESK:

Pakistan on Wednesday dispatched 105 tonnes of humanitarian aid for quake-struck Afghanistan, according to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. The earthquake killed a total of 1,469 people and injured more than 3,700, according to a new toll from Taliban authorities, making it one of the deadliest in decades to hit the impoverished country, according to AFP.

The vast majority of the casualties — more than 1,450 — were in Kunar province, with a dozen dead and hundreds hurt in nearby Nangarhar and Laghman provinces. "Following my tele-



phone call with Foreign Minister Muttqi, the Government of Pakistan today dispatched 105 tonnes of humanitarian relief assistance to Afghanistan," a statement from Deputy Prime Min-

ister Ishaq Dar said. The consignment includes "essential food items, medicines, tents, blankets, and bubble mats", aimed at supporting those affected by the recent earthquakes in the country, the statement added. "We extend our deepest condolences and prayers for the victims and wish a speedy recovery to the injured," Deputy PM Dar said.

Punjab floods ignite fears of Sindh deluge

NEWS DESK: Floodwaters across Punjab reached alarming levels on Tuesday after India released additional discharges into the Sutlej and Ravi rivers, while persistent monsoon rains intensified the crisis, putting millions of lives at risk and raising fears of a super flood in Sindh.

According to the Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), the Sutlej at Ganda Singh Wala recorded over 350,000 cusecs of water — the highest level since 1955.

At Sukramani, the flow was measured at 124,000 cusecs, while Islam Headworks reported nearly 86,000 cusecs. The Ravi also witnessed a dangerous rise, with water levels recorded at 54,000 cusecs in Jassar, 60,000 in Shahdara, 137,000 in Balloti, and 107,000 in Sidhna.

The Chenab River carried over 516,000 cusecs at Head Trimmu, posing a growing threat to low-lying areas. Water levels at Head Sanguni rose rapidly, endangering Pir Mahal and Khaneval, while traffic was suspended at Head Muhammad Wala amid warnings that the protective embankment might have to be deliberately breached to ease pressure.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) reported that major dams were nearing critical thresholds. Mangla Dam has reached 82 per cent of its capacity, while Tarbela is already filled to the brim. Across the border, India's Bhakra Dam stands at 84 per cent, Pong at 98 per cent, and Thein at 92 per cent, raising fears that any addi-



tional releases could dangerously escalate pressure downstream in Pakistan. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) confirmed that on September 1, a massive wave of 550,000 cusecs passed through Trimmu after protective embankments were deliberately breached at two points to ease an earlier surge of 885,000 cusecs.

The flow is now heading towards Panjnad Headworks, which has a design capacity of 650,000 cusecs, and is expected to receive between 570,000 and 600,000 cusecs by September 3. By September 5, an additional 80,000 to

100,000 cusecs from the Sutlej is projected to raise the total flow to between 650,000 and 700,000 cusecs.

The surge will then move to Guddu Barrage by September 6, followed by Sukkur and Kotri Barrages, before draining into the Arabian Sea around September 12 or 13.

PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia said that over one million people have so far been relocated to safe areas, while 41 people have lost their lives since August 26. He described the ongoing relief and evacuation efforts as the largest rescue operation in the province's history.

Punjab Relief Commissioner Nabeel Javed stated that over 3,200 villages and more than 2.4 million people have been affected. He said 395 relief camps, 392 medical camps, and 336 veterinary camps have been set up across flood-hit areas, while nearly one million people and over 708,000 livestock have been relocated to safer places.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department has warned of further heavy rains over the next 24 to 48 hours, cautioning that water pressure is likely to rise in the lower Indus and southern Punjab. Authorities have expressed fears that the situation could escalate into a super flood in Sindh, threatening millions more in the days ahead.

In southern Punjab, the Chenab's surge has entered Multan district, where local authorities are weighing breaching embankments to protect the city.

In Sindh, low-level flooding has been reported at Sukkur, Kotri and Guddu barrages, though many residents in riverine "katcha" areas are resisting evacuation orders. Officials warn that the refusal to leave the areas could complicate relief efforts if river levels continue to rise.

The FFD reported that Tarbela Dam has reached full capacity, while Mangla is 83 per cent filled. Rawal Dam has opened its spillways as levels approached the danger mark. Authorities said more rainfall is expected through September 3, with forecasts pointing to continued high flows in the Ravi, Sutlej and Chenab rivers.

EDITORIAL VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

A Progressive Shift in Balochistan's Education System

Editorial: The Education Department of Balochistan has taken a commendable step by replacing the terms "pass" and "fail" with "promoted" and "retained" on student result cards. This change, announced by District Education Officer (DEO) Quetta, Syed Nasir Shah, aims to address the psychological challenges students face due to traditional grading terminology.

Transforming Education: A Step Toward Inclusivity: The words "fail" and "pass" often leave a lasting impact on students' mental health, leading to stress, anxiety, and loss of interest in studies.

As DEO Syed Nasir Shah aptly stated, the revised terminology will "discourage students from losing interest in their studies" while fostering a more positive learning environment. By emphasizing improvement and self-

By Jawed Nargis:

To dump West, embrace BRICS

By habit, the choreographed Indian crowd began to chant "Modi Modi" at an event for the Indian prime minister's two-day visit to China. The Chinese hosts, on the other hand, greeted him with a knowledgeable display of Indian classical music, something Indians would struggle to reciprocate if it ever came to that. There's a trade deficit, and here's evidently a cultural deficit too. Three saris-clad Chinese women performed Vande Mataram, an Indian nationalist anthem, in Rag Desh on the sitar and santoor as the third kept rhythm on the tabla. But there are more urgent reasons than China's showcasing its soft power to woo a pro-America Narendra Modi, on an emotional rebound, to make a compelling case for BRICS. Dumping the Western capitalist model that has spawned wars and exploitative sanctions is a need that preceded the dismantling of the USSR.

Western perfidy targets friend and foe alike if business interests clash. The malaise is older than Donald Trump. Among my early observations in this regard was the West's betrayal of Kuwait before Saddam Hussein was hustled into completing the job. The story goes back to the 1987 stock market crash when the Thatcher government was in the process of selling its remaining 31.5 per cent stake in BP. The crash threatened to derail this massive sale, potentially costing the treasury billions. This meant that the Investment Office, the investment arm of the Kuwaiti sovereign wealth fund, stepped in to bail out the UK. It began purchasing BP shares on the open market. Initially, the UK government was pleased. The KIO's buying provided crucial support to the BP share price, helping to ensure the success of the government's own share sale. In a short time, the KIO had acquired a 21.6 per cent stake in BP, making it by far the largest shareholder. The UK government's stake was now zero.

Suddenly, Margaret Thatcher's government was uncomfortable with a controlling stake being held by a foreign government, even a friendly one. A 21.6 per cent stake gave Kuwait significant power and the idea of a major British icon falling under effective control of an OPEC member state was politically toxic, even for a pro-market government like Thatcher's.

India has 800m on food dole, signalling the contradiction between its right-wing government shored up by big money and people's priorities.

Thatcher formally instructed the KIO to reduce its holding. They were ordered to sell their stake to no more than 9.9pc.

The government made it clear that if Kuwait did not comply voluntarily, it would use its legal and regulatory powers to force the issue, potentially damaging diplomatic relations and Kuwait's other investments in the UK. Kuwait, a close ally that relied on Western protection, ultimately complied to maintain good relations.

What happened with Pakistan's prestigious BCCI bank was not entirely dissimilar. The CIA acknowledged using the major international bank as a conduit to secretly fund the Afghan mujahideen. The job done, the bank turned into an object of envy for the West. To quote Shakespeare, the

growth, this initiative provides the way for a supportive education system that prioritizes mental well-being.

Broader Implications for Balochistan's Education Sector

This progressive approach must extend beyond Quetta to all districts of Balochistan. School principals, district education officers, and even the Higher Education Department should adopt this policy. A province-wide notification banning the use of "fail" and "pass" on result cards would ensure a uniform approach to reducing stigma and promoting academic resilience.

Encouraging Female Education: This change holds particular significance for improving female education. In many regions of Balochistan, academic failures often discourage girls from continuing their studies. A more empathetic grading system can boost fe-

male enrollment and retention rates, aligning with the broader goals of gender equality in education.

A Call to Action

Educators and parents have lauded this initiative as a step toward an inclusive and empathetic education system. To amplify its impact, the Higher Education Department should incorporate similar terminology reforms at the college and university levels.

This shift can encourage students across all educational tiers to embrace learning without fear of failure.

Balochistan's education system is evolving, and this bold step reflects a commitment to nurturing confident, motivated learners. By implementing this change province-wide, the government can inspire a generation of students to pursue education fearlessly, fostering a brighter future for Balochistan.

Crypto moment?

CRYPTOCURRENCIES, best understood as digital assets, remain a niche segment within the global financial system despite much recent hype. For digital assets to gain serious traction, they must prove their value through solid use cases that enhance the existing ecosystem. There are signs that this may finally be happening as reality begins to catch up with the hype. What does this suggest for the future of Pakistan's financial markets?

In Pakistan, the first official stance came in 2018 when the State Bank of Pakistan warned the public that digital assets "are neither recognised as legal tender nor authorised by SBP for issuance, sale, purchase, exchange, or investment". Fast forward to March 2025, when the government established the Pakistan Crypto Council, chaired by the finance minister, signalling a significant shift in attitude.

By July 2025, the Virtual Assets Ordinance was enacted, creating the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority to frame regulations, licensing and regulatory policies for the sector. It now seems likely that Pakistan is moving toward adopting digital assets, making it important to understand their implications. The underlying technology for cryptocurrencies is Blockchain: a shared, secure, transparent, immutable, and decentralised digital ledger of transactions.

Blockchain offers many potential applications beyond cryptocurrencies. The biggest challenge remains the high price volatility. Cryptocurrencies date back only to 2009 with the launch of Bitcoin. Today, thousands of cryptocurrencies exist, ranging from legitimate projects to scams. Bitcoin remains the largest, with a current market capitalisation of around \$2.5 trillion, five times that of the second-largest, Ethereum.

By Samir Ahmed:

Impending crises

WE may be among the most crisis-prone nations globally. In this writer's view, we have faced nearly 30 crises since 1990 or one every 14 months on average. This includes political crises when the ruling set-up or its head were removed in contentious circumstances (seven); economic crunches that led us to the IMF (eight); natural and health-related calamities like earthquakes, floods and Covid-19 (four); internal or external security challenges (five) and crises due to street unrest (five).

This sorry status arises from the state's predatory, security and autocratic bent. The economic crises arise as our predatory rulers induce fickle growth via high twin deficits. The external security crises reflect the hold of hawks on both sides of our eastern border. The internal challenges stem from the forces of excluded ethnicities or our tolerance of their crimes (seven); economic crunches that led us to the IMF (eight); natural and health-related calamities like earthquakes, floods and Covid-19 (four); internal or external security challenges (five) and crises due to street unrest (five).

In a similar vein, the ongoing targeting of Huawei and other Chinese tech firms like ZTE, TikTok and Xiaomi is indeed a central piece of this pattern.

Adding Huawei to the analysis of the Indian situation reveals a pattern of tactics used by Western powers, primarily the US, when dealing with rising non-Western competitors.

The botched efforts that have been made to dismantle states like Russia, Venezuela and Iran to lay them open to Western carpetbaggers are well known. One of the Middle East from Libya to Yemen has suffered for that and more.

Capitalism is driven by private profit and has congenial aversion to social welfare. India has 800m on food dole, signalling the contradiction between its right-wing government shored up by big money and people's priorities.

Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani, two leading Indian tycoons, are in trouble with the US, one for alleged bribery to woo American investors, the other for defying Donald Trump's fiat against importing Russian oil. The two led the pack of Gujarati businessmen in 2013 to nominate Modi as their prime ministerial candidate for the 2014 elections. Modi thanked them and did what he does best.

He saw Uttar Pradesh burst into a communal frenzy on election eve to give himself an easy ride to power. The prestigious BCCI bank was not entirely dissimilar. The CIA acknowledged using the major international bank as a conduit to secretly fund the Afghan mujahideen. The job done, the bank turned into an object of envy for the West. To quote Shakespeare, the

rest are openly aware of

Balochistan in the Eye of Climate Change Storm: Calls for Resilient Climate Policies Surface

In the global battle against climate change, Balochistan, Pakistan, serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for digital assets to gain serious traction. The province is experiencing increasingly severe weather events, a consequence of human-induced climate change. However, many residents mistake these extreme weather occurrences for regular fluctuations, hindering recognition of the escalating climate crisis.

Balochistan is becoming unbearably hot, with rising temperatures transforming heatwaves into a year-round threat.

These heatwaves pose severe health risks, including heat stress, dehydration, and even fatalities. In 2017, Turbat recorded a scorching 53.5°C (128.3°F), setting a record for Pakistan. Unfortunately, forecasts suggest that temperatures will continue to rise. However, the climate challenges in Balochistan extend beyond weather events, both of which wreak havoc on homes and infrastructure. The floods of 2010 and 2022 left nearly 4 million people displaced, disrupting lives and triggering food shortages. Heatwaves and spikes due to their impact

on the agriculture sector. The 2022 flood in Balochistan underlines the scores the looming climate change threat. The 2022 flood underscored the looming threat of climate change over Balochistan. Driven by intensified and increasingly frequent monsoon rains, the full extent of the damage is yet to be comprehended. However, it exposed the province's vulnerabilities and highlighted the urgent need for effective management strategies.

Balochistan's annual rainfall of just 200 mm barely meets the needs of its parched population. This water scarcity adversely affects food production,

access to drinking water, and livestock numbers, exacerbated by climate change. The severe droughts of 1997-2003 and 2014-2017 forced migrations to water-rich areas.

CC affects economy. Climate change also decimated the region's economy through the loss of livestock. Between 2010 and 2022, over 1.5 million livestock were lost, costing over \$1 billion and displacing over 100,000 people, particularly in districts like Quetta, Pishin, Turbat, Pajura, and Khuzdar.

By Chaudhry Nisar:

Multilateral world order

It was the largest gathering of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, with leaders of Eurasian nations seeking to establish a more just and equitable multilateral system as an alternative to a crumbling Bretton Woods world order. The recently concluded SCO summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin brought together countries with competing interests in times of great turmoil in global governance.

Initially formed as the security cooperation group over two decades

ago, the SCO has evolved into a formidable forum for trade and economic development. Described as "SCO-Plus", the conference was attended by more than 20 heads of state and government, as well as leaders of international organisations. The Tianjin summit reinforced China's leading role in the emerging multilateral international order. In his speech, President Xi Jinping called for "cooperation for orderly multipolarisation". The Chinese leader stressed the need for the

organisation to work towards a "more just and equitable global governance system" and urged regional leaders to shun a "Cold War mentality".

It was pointed out that member states faced complicated security challenges in the emerging world, including a "chaotic and intertwined" world. These remarks set the tone of the conference. His speech indicated China's emphasis on geo-economics and connectivity. As per media reports, "The organisation covers approximately 24 per cent

Flawed monetary policy

AFTER reducing the policy rate to 11 per cent in May 2025, the State Bank of Pakistan's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has since kept the rate unchanged in its meetings on June 16 and July 30.

This decision appears imprudent, especially amid low inflation and the SBP's FX reserves crossed \$14 billion on the back of improved financial inflows and a current account surplus of 2.4pc of GDP in FY26.

monetary policy statement issued on July 30 noted that year-on-year inflation is expected to remain largely within the 5-7 per cent target range in FY26. The MPC noted positive key developments since its last meeting, including the SBP's FX reserves crossed \$14 billion on the back of improved financial inflows and a current account surplus of 2.4pc of GDP in FY26.

cent upgrade in Pakistan's sovereign credit rating led to a decline in Eurobond yields and narrowed CDS spreads in international markets. It also acknowledged the government's fiscal consolidation efforts, which resulted in a primary surplus in FY25 and an expected surplus of 2.4pc of GDP in FY26.

While the SBP notes positive trends in the economy and broadly sees things in the targeted or sustainable ranges, it has kept the policy rate unchanged amid sluggish economic activity. With inflation projected to remain within target, fiscal discipline in place.

By Saad Ahmad:

Chinese checkers

AFICIONADOS of spectacular martial displays will not find today's military parade in Beijing considerably more impressive than the one held in 250 years of the US Army (as well as Donald Trump's birthday) in Washington not too long ago.

Narendra Modi won't be there, perhaps because of saluting China's military prowess just five years after border clashes, and barely four months after Chinese technology gave Pakistan an edge in the post-Pahalgaon hostilities, would not have played well at home. But at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin over the weekend, he was holding hands with Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping on what was the

recent hostility against "Nehruvian socialism". While maintaining cordial ties with three US administrations, Jawaharlal Nehru was also attached to the idea of friendship with the Soviet Union and China. There have been fractures over the decades with Washington and Beijing, but the Russian connection has survived the demise of the USSR.

China knows how to play the long game. Russia, however, wasn't a key source of crude oil until the sanctions following its attack on Ukraine.

The irony is that until last year, the pretty much encouraged India to purchase Russian crude to maintain oil prices, and had no objection to the refined product being sold on to Europe or America, so

that they could claim it weren't buying it from Russia.

The largest refinery belongs to Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, which helps to explain why a sudden halt to Russian imports would be a non-starter for the crony capitalism that has helped to sustain the BJP regime.

Previous US presidents wooed India as a counter-balance to China, as part of a strategy that has only persuaded the latter to extend its military prowess. Trump presumably knows that China imports more Russian crude than India, yet his administration has described the Ukraine conflict as 'Modi's war' and derided India as a 'landlord' for Russia.

By Mahir Ali:

Past as the future

MORE provinces or empowered local governments? The debate has been sparked, it seems. And it wasn't just due to forwarded-as-received WhatsApp posts, which 'announced' multiple smaller provinces but also the research presented by media owners and deny that intellectuals, who are so convinced of the need for this reform that they are now trying to shape opinion at large.

The government and its allies profess ignorance and deny that any such move is in the offing. But the rest of us know better and are taking these 'muzzammas' (inspiration) from 'ghaib' (unknown) rather seriously. After all, unlike the government, the rest are openly aware of

the importance of the unknown. As a result, the debate rages on. More provinces are needed, we are told. In fact, it has been carving out the relevant assembly and even if this is managed, it would be followed by a drawn-out process of administrative measures (such as the drawing up of new boundaries) and the setting up of governments in multiple parts of the country. It has been asked if this would not add to the existing polarisation. Local government has been offered as a solution — an alternative that has, perhaps, more supporters than the idea of new provinces.

But everyone is convinced. In fact, there has been commentary and discussions highlighting how, in the same time-and-consum-

ing the process of establishing new provinces could be. For instance, even a new province requires a two-thirds majority in the relevant assembly and even if this is managed, it would be followed by a drawn-out process of administrative measures (such as the drawing up of new boundaries) and the setting up of governments in multiple parts of the country. It has been asked if this would not add to the existing polarisation. Local government has been offered as a solution — an alternative that has, perhaps, more supporters than the idea of new provinces.

Whether the empowerment of the people is really the objective is the question. These proposals

have generated an interest because of the acknowledged that the current political system is not working and — whether in desecrating the set-up or a hybrid dispensation — all political parties have struggled with governance and implementation of the needed reform. This is the silent consensus regardless of party affiliation — other than the party heads who have turned parties and provinces into fiefdoms and have no interest in any change. Indeed, the 18th Amendment has been offered as a solution — an alternative that has, perhaps, more supporters than the idea of new provinces.

By Arifa Noor:

Pakistan's SK hydropower station showcased at SCO summit 2025

BEIJING (INP): Pakistan's Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Station, a key project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), was presented as a model for sustainable energy cooperation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2025 that concluded on Monday in Tianjin, China.

The project was featured in a special issue by China's International Business Daily for the summit, which ran under the theme "Promoting the Shanghai Spirit: SCO in Action," according

to Gwadar Pro. Located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the SK Hydropower Station is a major energy initiative under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The plant began commercial operations in September 2024.

By August 2025, the station had supplied over 2.7 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to Pakistan's national grid, helping to ease power shortages and support the country's clean energy goals, the report said.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif led Pakistan's delegation to the summit, which gathered leaders and officials from across Eurasia. An official with the Pakistan delegation said the project underscored the country's role in promoting regional connectivity and green development.

Beyond power generation, the project has supported local community and environmental programs, including the planting of more than 150,000 trees, the construction of a trout hatchery, scholarships for local students, and upgrades to road infrastructure



QUETTA: Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi Hilal-e-Intiaz (Military) meets Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

President Zardari holds detailed discussion with Punjab Governor regarding flood situation

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday held a detailed discussion with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider regarding the devastating flood situation across the province.

The president termed it a human tragedy that demanded solidarity and urgent response.

He further stressed that Pakistan was facing unprecedented challenges due to climate change and urged national solidarity, urging

the global community to stand with Pakistan in combating the destructive impact of climate change.

During the call, Governor Haider briefed the president on the challenges faced by flood-affected communities, particularly in remote and cut-off areas.

He underscored the relief efforts were underway, noting that Pakistan Red Crescent Society had expanded its services to almost every part of Punjab, including Lahore.

Hafizabad, Kasur, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, Narowal, and Mandi Bahauddin, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The relief camps had already been set up and a water treatment plant was being established in Kartarpur to provide safe drinking water to local residents.

The governor emphasized that officials and volunteers were reaching out to directly to affected families, assuring

them that the state stood beside them in this difficult hour.

President Zardari praised these efforts and reiterated that the people of Pakistan would not be left alone during this crisis.

"Swollen rivers and unseasonal rains have created a looming threat of food insecurity across the region," President Zardari noted and pointed out that while Pakistan had played no role in creating the global climate catastrophe, but the nation continued to pay a heavy price for it.



KAN MEHTARZAI: Governor Balochistan Jaffer Khan Mandokhail formally inaugurating the grid station at Kan Mehtarzai on the occasion of his one-day visit.

UN Women-SBP BSC Pact seen as boost for Women's Financial inclusion

ISLAMABAD (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan's Banking Services Corporation (SBP-BSC) and UN Women Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly promote women's financial inclusion through enhanced access to banking and literacy.

The partnership, in a move experts call a significant boost for gender inclusion, aims to expand women's access to financial services and build their financial literacy across the country, officials said.

The signing ceremony was held at SBP-BSC's head-

quarters in Karachi on August 27, with SBP-BSC Managing Director Maraj Mahmood and UN Women Country Representative Jamshed Kazi in attendance.

In Pakistan, where women's access to formal finance remains among the lowest in the region, policy makers see the collaboration as timely.

"Financial inclusion is key to unlocking the potential of women in Pakistan," said Jamshed Kazi, UN Women's country head, noting that inclusive financial systems are vital.

The initiative aligns with the central

bank's ongoing gender mainstreaming drive (including its Banking on Equality policy) and national targets to narrow the finance gender gap.

Officials underscore that empowering female customers will not only boost household welfare but also support broader economic development.

Pathways for Women's Access

Under the SBP-UN Women accord, both institutions will launch a joint programme aimed at removing barriers that have kept most Pakistani women out of the banking system.

The MoU outlines

cooperation on a range of initiatives. From financial literacy seminars and community awareness campaigns to capacity-building workshops and research on obstacles to women's inclusion.

A core focus will be expanding digital financial services in underserved areas, leveraging fintech and mobile banking to reach women in remote and rural regions.

"Through this partnership with SBP-BSC, UN Women aims to create pathways for women to access financial services, build resilience, and contribute to sustainable economic growth," Kazi said.

also addressed the gathering.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtayev, has said Uzbekistan and Pakistan are two significant countries along the historical 'Silk Route' and that strategic significance will strengthen regional economic and trade integration and the tourism sector.

Uzbekistan, located at the heart of the Silk Road, is home to world-famous ancient cities – Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Termez and Kokand – which are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtayev said this while addressing the opening of the Uzbekistan Tourism and Cultural Show – "Uzbekistan: the Pearl of the Silk Road."

The envoy said that Uzbekistan warmly welcomes your initiatives whether in hotel construction, transport services, or creative industries. Together, we can make Central and South Asia one of the interconnected and most attractive tourism regions in the world.

The lands of our ancestors were once connected by the Great Silk Road, where merchants, scholars, poets, and travellers moved freely between Central Asia and South Asia, he said. Today, "we are reviving those historical ties in a modern way – through tourism, cultural exchanges, and direct people-to-people contacts."

"I invite our Pakistani brothers and sisters to visit and witness these treasures that reflect the shared civilizational heritage of our nations."

At the same time, "we highly value Pakistan's rich cultural and natural heritage – from the Mughal monuments of Lahore, to the vibrant traditions of Sindh, to the breathtaking beauty of the northern valleys," he said. He said Uzbekistan firmly believes that by developing tourism in both directions, both sides will strengthen mutual understanding, create new economic opportunities, and build even closer bonds between our peoples.

US President Donald Trump rules out lowering tariffs on Indian imports

WASHINGTON, Sept 03 (INP): US President Donald Trump, in a sharp rebuke of India's trade policies, firmly said that he has no intention of lowering tariffs on Indian imports.

The remarks came just a week after Washington doubled levies on Indian goods to 50% as punishment for its Russian oil imports.

When asked by a reporter whether he was considering taking away some of the tariffs imposed on India, President Trump bluntly replied, "No." "We get along with India very well," he added at a White House event, but criticized what he said was an imbalanced trade relationship with New Delhi because of high Indian levies.

"India has, you have to understand, for many years, it was a one-sided relationship," he said. "India was charging us tremendous tariffs, about the highest in the world." Trump said, adding that the US was therefore not doing much business with India.

"But they were doing business with us because we weren't charging them, foolishly, we weren't charging them," he said, adding that India was pouring its products into the US.

Trump set a 25% duty on Indian exports but doubled that level to 50% last week as punishment for purchases of Russian oil. Those levies hit more than 55% of goods shipped to the US, which is India's biggest market.

"They send it in, pour it into our country. Therefore it wouldn't be made here, which is a negative, but

we would not send in anything because they were charging us 100 per cent tariffs," Trump said.

The US president cited the example of the Harley Davidson motorcycle, saying the company couldn't sell into India because there was a 200 per cent tariff on a motorcycle.

"So what happens? Harley Davidson went to India and built a motorcycle plant, and now they don't have to pay tariffs, same thing as us," he said.

Trump has expressed frustration over India's continued purchases of Russian energy.

Critics say India help keep Russia's economy afloat and undercut US sanctions against Moscow aimed at reeling in the country's military ma-

chine and bringing an end to the war in Ukraine.

Trump on Monday said that India had offered to cut its tariffs "to nothing" in a social media post, without saying when that offer was made or whether the White House plans to reopen trade talks with India.

TENDER NOTICE

ONLY ELECTRONIC BIDS WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR SERIAL NO. 1 AND PHYSICAL BIDS ARE REQUIRED FOR SERIAL NO. 2.

All Bidders must be registered with the Government of Punjab, Punjab Public Procurement System (PPPS) and must have a valid registration number.

The Bidding Process is divided into two parts: Part I (Pre-qualification) and Part II (Bidding).

Part I (Pre-qualification) is a mandatory step for all bidders to be eligible to participate in Part II (Bidding).

Part II (Bidding) is a competitive bidding process where bidders submit bids for the project.

The Bidding Process is open to all registered bidders.

The Bidding Process is subject to the terms and conditions of the PPPS.

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S.No.	Name of Works	Estimate
1.	Construction of Overhead Bund, Leading Cut, Repair of Existing Bund at Malakpota (Under Balochistan Special Development Initiative Programme for the Year 2025-26)	40,000,000
2.	Cleaning of Karez at Hali Bazar (Under Balochistan Special Development Initiative Programme for the Year 2025-26)	500,000

Procurement shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidder must be a resident of Balochistan or a citizen of Pakistan. Registration is required No Prior Experience Required. There is no requirement of Turn Over. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned 1500 PKR. Issuance of Tender Documents: From the date of publication of NT to 18 September, 2025 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Bidders must submit their bids by 10 September, 2025 10:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 11:00 PM. Address: Executive Engineer Office Irrigation Division Turbat Head Office (0652415327 Email: Irrigationturbat@gmail.com)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION TURBAT

PRQ No. 123803-9-2025

www.ppps.gov.pk



QUETTA: Jamaat-i-Islami's Balochistan chapter emir, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch addressing a press conference.

سیڈر نوٹس

1. خرید و فروغ کے لیے 2025/26 کے لیے سیڈر نوٹس (Seed Notes) کی فراہمی کے لیے درخواستیں جمع کروانی چاہئیں۔

2. Technical Specifications, Forms and Tender Documents کے ساتھ ساتھ 19 ستمبر 2025ء تک 2:00 بجے تک 2:28 بجے تک فراہم کیے جائیں گے۔

3. درخواستیں 2025/26 کے لیے سیڈر نوٹس (Seed Notes) کی فراہمی کے لیے جمع کروانی چاہئیں۔

Slr	Items	Qty (Tons)	Unit	Items	Qty (Tons)
a.	Maize Grain	112	b.	Common Salt	9
b.	Canada Meal	154	b.	DDP (Distillers Dried Pellets)	13
c.	Soyabean Meal	51	i.	Min Vit Ph Mls (Water)	7
d.	Molasses	86	j.	Min Vit Ph Mls (Lactating)	13
e.	Soyabean Concentrate	15	k.	Maize Stages	1,488
f.	Canola Concentrate	113			

3. درخواستیں 2025/26 کے لیے سیڈر نوٹس (Seed Notes) کی فراہمی کے لیے جمع کروانی چاہئیں۔

4. درخواستیں 2025/26 کے لیے سیڈر نوٹس (Seed Notes) کی فراہمی کے لیے جمع کروانی چاہئیں۔

5. درخواستیں 2025/26 کے لیے سیڈر نوٹس (Seed Notes) کی فراہمی کے لیے جمع کروانی چاہئیں۔

Sr	Name of Contract etc. awarded during last 5 years and in hand	Department	Value of Contract (Rs)	Time Consumed (Months)	Date of Completion	% completion of work in hand
a.						

6. درخواستیں 2025/26 کے لیے سیڈر نوٹس (Seed Notes) کی فراہمی کے لیے جمع کروانی چاہئیں۔

7. درخواستیں 2025/26 کے لیے سیڈر نوٹس (Seed Notes) کی فراہمی کے لیے جمع کروانی چاہئیں۔

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Gandapur's statement regarding Kalabagh Dam not party policy: Salman Akram Raja

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Salman Akram Raja on Wednesday said that Ali Amin Gandapur's statement regarding the Kalabagh Dam may be his personal opinion, not party policy.

Speaking to the media outside the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi, Raja said that PTI's stance on the construction of the Kalabagh Dam is clear. "Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have reservations. A project opposed by two provinces is not good for the federation. Unless all stake-

holders agree and there is political harmony, such a project cannot be implemented," he said.

He further said that talk of a presidential system is absolutely not his party's policy. "I have not come across the KP Chief Minister's statement on this matter, but if such a statement has been made, I will ask Ali Amin Gandapur about it," he added.

He said, "This parliament cannot pass a constitutional amendment—it is the product of Form-47. Replacing the parliamentary system with a presidential system is simply

not possible. False and fabricated cases have been filed against us, but hearings are not being conducted."

Raja added that, on the instructions of PTI's founder, he convened a meeting of MNAs and MPAs in Lahore, where Imran Khan's message was conveyed.

"Help the flood-affected people from your own pockets," He said, "I personally went to Sambrial in Sialkot yesterday. Wherever possible, we are helping flood victims. Our workers are present everywhere and making every effort."



MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani talking to media at Ghallio School, Jhok Wains where flood relief camps are established.

Punjab's First Transport Expo to feature Chinese Metro on Sept 4-5

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Chinese Super Autonomous Rapid Transit (SRT) metro—described as trackless, ticketless, and battery-powered—is set to be showcased at Punjab's first-ever Transport Expo 2025, which is to take place on September 4-5 at the Expo Centre Lahore, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

The tram will be exhibited in Hall No. 2, where visitors can experience firsthand how this advanced system combines technology, efficiency, and environmental sustainability.

The SRT metro was imported into Pakistan by the Chinese company NORINCO International on July 21, 2025. NORINCO has already established its presence in Pakistan by launching, operating, and maintaining the Orange Line Metro Rail Transit System (OLMT) in Lahore—the country's first electric railway transportation project—completed on October 25, 2020, under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Transport Expo 2025,

organized by the Punjab Government in collaboration with the Transport & Mass Transit Department, will also bring together leading local and international companies to showcase the future of sustainable and smart mobility in Pakistan.

A Punjab Transport Department official told Gwadar Pro that, guided by the vision of creating green, smart, and accessible cities, the department continues to invest in advanced technologies that ensure efficiency, safety, and environmental responsibility.

Mr. Taha Khan Aziz, Deputy Manager PR, added: "Through this expo, we aim to engage with the people of Pakistan, showcase NORINCO's commitment to sustainable urban transport, and highlight the spirit of Pakistan-China friendship that drives these groundbreaking projects."

The SRT bus is a cutting-edge electric vehicle that operates without traditional tracks, providing a flexible and sustainable alternative to conventional mass transit. Already in use in cities such as Dubai,

the SRT bus is noted for its adaptability and environmental benefits.

Measuring up to 30 meters in length, the vehicle is powered by two engines and can reach speeds of up to 100 kilometers per hour. Despite its size, it boasts remarkable maneuverability, capable of turning within a radius as small as 15 meters.

Dubbed a "subway on wheels," the SRT system employs Virtual Track Technology, using advanced sensors, GPS, and digital mapping instead of physical rails. This fully electric, battery-powered vehicle is part of a pilot project aimed at assessing its potential to transform urban travel in Pakistan.

The ART system, modeled after the SRT, will feature electric, multi-coach buses capable of carrying 250 to 300 passengers each. Unlike traditional metro or BRT systems, the SRT/ART models require no costly tracks or elevated corridors, enabling faster and more affordable rollouts in both major cities and smaller urban centers.

China-Pakistan Children's Art Exhibition commemorates Peace, friendship

ISLAMABAD (INP): A joint China-Pakistan children's painting exhibition, showcasing entries from the art competition, kicked off at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

The event commemorates the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Titled "Join hands to commemorate and paint peace together," the exhibition showcased 300 works including paintings, calligraphy, paper cuttings, and AI-generated art.

Organized by the China-Pakistan Educational and Cultural Institute, the five-day event will later tour Punjab Uni-

versity to reach a wider audience. Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Pakistan's Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, emphasized the exhibition's significance in honoring historical sacrifices.

"This event pays tribute to those who laid down their lives for peace, freedom and dignity," he stated.

"Through this children's painting competition, we engage the younger generation in themes of peace, friendship and unity."

Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, highlighted the shared historical legacy between the two nations.

"China and Pakistan stood

together in the fight against fascism and made significant contributions to world peace," he remarked. "In today's world, it is imperative for our two countries to continue standing united and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind."

The exhibition features powerful symbolic elements, including doves for peace, olive branches and vivid depictions of Chinese and Pakistani children holding hands.

The event was attended by 200 guests including Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, Pakistan's Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training, Dr. Shazia Sobia, member of National Assembly of Pakistan, teachers and children from both countries.



QUETTA: Bilal Yaseen winner of International bodybuilding gold medal addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club (QPC).



BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the Anzhen Hospital.

KSrelief begins relief distribution for flood-affected families in KP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) has begun distributing emergency relief to families severely affected by recent floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to the KSrelief on Wednesday, aid is being delivered across the hardest-hit districts, including Buner, Swat, Shangla, Battagram, Manshara, Dir Upper, Dir Lower, Swabi, and other impacted areas.

In response to the crisis,

KSrelief has allocated 10,000 Shelter NFI kits and 10,000 Food Packages.

Each Shelter Kit contains essential items such as a tent, solar panels with LED lights, two thermal blankets, plastic mats, kitchen sets, water coolers, and antibacterial soap. While, each food package, weighing 95 kilograms, includes wheat flour, sugar, lentils, and cooking oil—carefully tailored to meet the urgent nutritional needs of flood-affected families.

The distribution is being

carried out in coordination with NDMA, PDMA, RR&SD KP, local authorities, and KSrelief's implementing partners, Hayat Foundation and the Peace and Development Organization. This joint effort ensures that aid reaches vulnerable communities in a transparent and timely manner.

This initiative reaffirms the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's steadfast commitment, through KSrelief, to stand by the people of Pakistan in times of crisis by providing immediate humanitarian assistance.

Creating new provinces in Pakistan vital for distribution of resources Mian Amer

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Group Chairman Mian Amer Mahmood has stressed the need for creating new provinces in Pakistan to ensure fair distribution of resources, equal rights, and effective governance, warning that mismanagement and unequal access to resources hinder national progress.

Speaking at a seminar titled "Pakistan 2030 Challenges, Opportunities, and New Pathways" organized by private universities under "SupApp" at Punjab University's Institute of Business Administration, Mian Amer Mahmood said that in the past, wealth and kingdoms were the privilege of monarchs. About 250 years ago, various empires and monarchies were established across the world, and territories were expanded through conquests. However, with time, countries began to emerge that were driven by the power of their people.

Mian Amer Mahmood said in his address that IBA is his own institute, where he studied and even served as a student leader. He added that public awareness and people's power are the foundations that have completely transformed global political and social systems.

The Punjab Group chairman said that, over time, nations emerged that were driven by the strength of their people. "Citizens love their country because their rights are recognised and protected there," he added.

He further said that today, in various political science books, we study the principles on which

a state is founded, including seven key elements. Nations decided to deliver welfare to the people and divide administrative units, which led to the establishment of provincial governments. Recalling history, Mian Amer Mahmood noted that at the time of East Pakistan's creation, its population was about 30 million and it had four provinces. In contrast, Punjab's population has now grown from 20 million to nearly 130 million.

Speaking on the deprivations of Balochistan, he said that although natural gas is extracted from there, its own people are still deprived of its supply. He stressed that for a strong and sustainable state, ensuring people's rights, equality, and fair distribution of resources is essential.

Mian Amer Mahmood said that Pakistan ranks among the lowest in human development and welfare indicators, which is an alarming situation. He pointed out that in the Human Development Index, Pakistan stands at 168 out of 193 countries—ahead only of nations suffering from continuous civil wars.

The Punjab Group Chairman stressed that no civilized or developed country ranks below Pakistan, which is a matter of deep concern. He added that in terms of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Pakistan is placed at 140, a position that is by no means admirable.

He also prayed for kind opportunities Pakistan is providing its people for progress and a better future.

Punjab govt not barred any organization or individual from distributing food among flood-affected: Azma Bukhari

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Information and Archives Minister Azma Bukhari Wednesday clarified that the provincial government has not barred any private organization or individual from distributing food among flood-affected people.

In her statement, Bukhari explained that the only requirement is to have the food checked and approved by the Punjab Food Authority and the district administration before distribution. The Punjab minister said that complaints had been received regarding the distribution of sub-standard food in some areas, which prompted the government to issue these guidelines in order to safeguard public health.

She asserted that there is a risk of disease outbreaks in flood-hit regions, and preventive measures are essential to protect the well-being of the victims.

Rejecting what she termed as "false propaganda" on the matter, the provincial information minister urged critics not to indulge in political point scoring.

She highlighted that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is personally visiting affected areas to assure people that the government stands firmly with them during this crisis.

Bukhari stressed that the people are fully aware that the Chief Minister and her administration remain committed to supporting them under all circumstances.



QUETTA: A view of rush on Afghan consulate.

Bilawal reaffirms party's unwavering support for security forces in fight against extremism, terrorism

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reaffirmed his party's unwavering support for security forces in the ongoing fight against extremism and terrorism.

Condemning the attack on the FC headquarters in Bannu and the firing on police personnel in Lakki Marwat, Bilawal Bhutto praised the resolve and bravery of FC personnel in fending off the terrorist attacks. He paid tribute to the se-

curity officers martyred in the gunfight with terrorists and to the police personnel killed in Lakki Marwat, offering heartfelt condolences and solidarity to their families. He also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the attacks, including both security personnel and civilians.

The PPP chairman reiterated his commitment to continue supporting the security forces in the struggle against extremism and terrorism.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also condemned the blast at a rally of the Balochistan National Party (Mengal) in Quetta, expressing sorrow over the loss of precious lives and extending condolences to the victims' families and the BNP(M) leadership.

He expressed confidence that the terrorists responsible for this heinous act would soon be brought to justice and urged the Balochistan government to ensure proper medical care for all injured civilians.