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Green Buses for Quetta: Fleet of 21 Vehicles En Route from China to Pakistan

CM Sarfraz Bugti: Skills Development Key to Tackling Unemployment

QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has said that unemployment is one of the biggest challenges facing the province and stressed the need to create more job opportunities in the private sector. He emphasized that the youth of Balochistan are the province's most valuable asset, and the government is committed to equipping them with education, skills, and employment opportunities for a brighter future.

Speaking at a review meeting of the Youth Skills Development Program held at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Quetta, CM Bugti stated that "smuggling and illegal businesses are not the future of our young generation; we want to provide them with respectable livelihoods through skill development and education."

The meeting was attended by Advisor on Labour and Manpower Sardar Ghulam Rasool Umrani, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Principal



Secretary Babar Khan, Labour Secretary Niaz Nichari, DG BTEVTA Tariq Javed Mengal, and other senior officials.

30,000 Youth to Receive Training in Various Sectors

Officials briefed the Chief Minister that under the Youth Skills Development Program, 30,000 young men and women will be trained in different fields with the support of certified institutions. The initiative aims to prepare the youth with modern, market-oriented skills that will enable them to secure

employment both locally and internationally.

**Special Focus on
Border Districts**

CM Bugti announced that youth from border districts will be given special priority in the Skills Development Program and the Interest-Free Loan Program, helping them move away from smuggling and illegal trade toward sustainable and respectable employment.

**Government's Top
Priority: Jobs
and Education
for Youth**

The Chief Minister directed that the program's goals must be achieved on time with complete transparency and merit. He reaffirmed that the provincial government's top priorities include:

Educational scholarships for deserving students

Skill development initiatives aligned with modern needs

Employment opportunities in the public and private sectors

He said these steps will enable the youth of Balochistan to play an effective role in the progress and development of Pakistan.



Balochistan Political Parties Announce Province-Wide Protest on September 8 After Quetta Attack

Green Buses for Quetta: Fleet of 21 Vehicles En Route from China to Pakistan



Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: A fleet of 21 modern buses, including 16 green buses and five pink buses, has been dispatched from a Chinese port and is expected to arrive in Quetta within the next 20 days, according to sources in the Balochistan Transport Department.

Officials confirmed that the buses will soon be operational on the roads of Quetta, marking a major step toward addressing the city's long-standing demand for a

reliable and modern public transport system.

The introduction of pink buses, dedicated to women passengers, is aimed at ensuring safe and affordable transportation for female commuters, who have long faced difficulties in the absence of proper facilities.

The government had earlier announced that the green bus service would be launched in Quetta by the end of June. However, due to technical delays and unfavorable regional cir-

cumstances, the arrival of the buses was postponed.

The provincial government has now reiterated its commitment to providing efficient transport services, with the new fleet expected to ease traffic congestion and improve daily commuting for thousands of residents.

Transport officials added that the initiative reflects the government's focus on sustainable urban mobility and gender-inclusive

facilities. Citizens and civil society groups have repeatedly highlighted the need for affordable and safe public transport in Quetta, and the launch of this service is seen as a response to those long-pending demands.

With the addition of these buses, Quetta's public transport infrastructure is set for a much-needed improvement, offering residents a more comfortable, safe, and dependable commuting experience.

China Reaffirms Commitment to Peaceful Development: President Xi Jinping

BEIJING (XINHUA): Chinese President Xi Jinping has reiterated that China will remain committed to peaceful development, emphasizing the country's role in fostering global cooperation and building a shared future for humanity.

Speaking on Wednesday at an event marking the 80th anniversary of the victory against Japanese aggression and the global fight against fascism, Xi, who is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, highlighted the importance of peace and dialogue in today's



world. "Humanity once again stands at a crossroads — between peace or war, dialogue or confrontation, and win-win cooperation or zero-sum competition," Xi said. The Chinese

president underlined that the Chinese people will stay on the right side of history, continue to follow the path of peaceful development, and work with other countries to advance the vision of

a community with a shared future for mankind.

This reaffirmation comes as China positions itself as a key player in global peace, stability, and multilateral cooperation.

SHO among three policemen martyred in Karak attack

NEWS DESK: At least three policemen, including a Station House Officer (SHO), were killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on a police patrol vehicle in the Banda Daud Shah area of Karak district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), on Thursday.

According to police, SHO Umar Nawaz was on routine patrol with two constables when their mobile came under a sudden ambush. The attackers sprayed the vehicle with bullets, leaving all three officers dead on the spot.

A spokesperson for Karak police confirmed the incident and said the attackers fled the scene immediately after the assault. Security forces later cordoned off the area and carried a search operation.



Authorities have not yet released further details on the perpetrators or the progress of the investigation.

Separately, on Tuesday, unidentified gunmen attacked a passenger vehicle in Lower Kurram, killing at least seven people in K-P. According to the police, the attackers opened fire on

the passenger vehicle near Ahmad Khan Kalle and fled the scene.

Kurram District Police Officer (DPO) Kurram Malik Habib stated that the attack was an attempt to sabotage peace in the area.

These recent ambushes come amid a surge in militant violence

against police in K-P. In August alone, over 13 coordinated gun and grenade attacks were launched by terrorists in seven districts, killing at least six policemen. Officials described the independence Day assaults as a direct challenge to the state's authority.

Balochistan Political Parties Announce Province-Wide Protest on September 8 After Quetta Attack

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Leaders of six major political parties in Balochistan held a joint press conference at the Quetta Press Club, strongly condemning the suicide attack of September 2 at Shahwani Stadium, Saryab Road, during the fourth death anniversary of veteran nationalist leader Sardar Attaullah Mengal.

The tragic attack claimed the lives of 15 political workers and left 41 others injured. Senior leaders, including Mahmood Khan Achakzai of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), BNP leader Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, along with representatives of ANP, National Party, PTI, and Majlis Wahdat-ul-Muslimeen, narrowly escaped unharm.

Announcing a province-wide rail and wheel jam, shutter-down strike, rallies, and protest demonstrations on September 8, Mahmood Khan Achakzai said the incident was an attack on democratic forces.

He emphasized that the leadership would continue their political struggle for constitutional supremacy, the protection of provincial rights, and the dignity of the people. "We are not slaves. Our fight is for equality, justice, and the



rights of our people," he declared.

Achakzai stressed that the natural resources of Balochistan must first and foremost benefit its people.

He called for accountability and justice, urging the state to ensure that those responsible are brought to book. He added that despite the anger and grief, political parties chose a peaceful and democratic response rather than violence.

BNP President Akhtar Mengal described the tragedy as "heartbreaking," recalling how workers chanting political slogans moments earlier were targeted mercilessly. He said the martyrs belong not only to one party but to the entire province, and their sacrifices will strengthen the political struggle.

Leaders from National Party, ANP, PTI, and Majlis Wahdat-ul-Muslimeen also addressed the press conference, urging the public, traders, transporters, civil society, and youth to participate in the peaceful protest on September 8.

They said this united action would be a tribute to the martyrs and a powerful message of solidarity for peace in Balochistan.

India announces increased water release from two points of Sutlej River

ISLAMABAD (INP): Indian High Commissioner has on Thursday informed about release of more water from two points of Sutlej River. Indian High Commission in Islamabad has informed to the authorities about high flood alert at 8:00am on Thursday morning after releasing water from Sutlej at Harke and below Ferozpur. The high commission had earlier conveyed information about the release of water from Sutlej River on Wednesday. The National Di-

saster Management Authority (NDMA) yesterday predicted more rainfall in upper areas of the country during next 24 to 48 hours. "Naowal, Sialkot, Gujrat and Lahore are expected to receive heavy rainfall in next 24 hours," NDMA stated. Torrential rains have wreaked havoc in Gujrat and surrounding areas, with 506 millimeters of rainfall recorded in just 20 hours. According to the deputy commissioner, the downpour caused Qamar Sialvi Road's

storm-drain to overflow, flooding nearby houses and shops. Similarly, Katchery Road and WAPDA Colony were submerged as rain and floodwaters engulfed residential and commercial properties. Meantime, Bimber Nullah swelled to dangerous levels, creating a situation of severe flooding in the area. "Southern parts of Punjab and Sindh likely to be lashed by rains under the influence of this weather system," NDMA yesterday said. NDMA said that

Sindh's coastal districts Badin, Sujawal and Thar Parkar could receive heavy rainfall. Extremely heavy rainfall and discharge of water in rivers from India have unleashed extraordinary flooding situation in Punjab. "Flood streams of water are likely to be seen in Sindh from Head Punjnad.



Provincial Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani and Commandant Girls Cadet College Quetta Brigadier Mirza Faisal Baig are meeting with Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail.

Afghanistan earthquake death toll rises, survivors face aid crunch

KABUL (INP): Rescue workers battled to pull bodies from the rubble of homes razed in Afghanistan's earthquakes this week, as time runs out for survivors, to face a bleak future with global aid agencies warning of dwindling funds for food, shelter and medicines.

Search operations ran late in the quake-hit mountainous eastern areas as more bodies were dug out, the Taliban administration said, adding that the death toll had crossed 1,457 but exact numbers had yet to be compiled. "Everywhere, the dead have been destroyed," said Aalem Jan, a survivor in the worst affected province

of Kunar. "Our house collapsed, and all our belongings and possessions were lost. The only remaining things are these clothes on our backs." The first earthquake of magnitude 6, one of Afghanistan's deadliest in recent years, unleashed widespread damage and destruction in the provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar on Sunday when it struck at a shallow depth of 10 km (6 miles).

A second quake of magnitude 5.5 on Tuesday caused panic and interrupted rescue efforts as it sent rocks sliding off roads to villages in remote areas. About 3,400 more have been injured and more than

6,700 homes have been destroyed, authorities have said. The United Nations has warned the toll could rise with people still trapped under rubble as time runs out for survivors.

Humanitarian needs are "vast and growing rapidly," said aid group the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). "Up to 84,000 people are directly and indirectly affected, with thousands displaced," it added, citing initial figures. Entire households were wiped out in some villages in Kunar province. Survivors desperately searching for family members sifted rubble, carried bodies on woven

stretchers and dug graves with pickaxes in the wait for aid to arrive. Visuals from Reuters TV showed trucks, some laden with sacks of flour and others men with shovels, travelling to remote villages on higher slopes. Authorities also airdropped dozens of commando forces at sites where helicopters could not land.

Resources for rescue and relief work are tight in the South Asian nation of 42 million people pulverised by war, poverty and shrinking aid, where harsh weather presents a further challenge. US President Donald Trump's funding cuts to foreign aid and donor frustration over the Taliban's restrictive policies towards women



QUTETIA: Dr. Faizuddin, Neurosurgeon of Arya Hospital meeting with Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

White House takes tariffs fight to United States (US) Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, Sept 04 (INP): Donald Trump's administration asked the US Supreme Court to hear a bid to preserve his sweeping tariffs pursued under a 1977 law meant for emergencies, after a lower court invalidated most of the levies central to the Republican president's economic and trade agenda.

The Justice Department appealed an August 29 ruling by a federal appeals court that the president overstepped his authority in invoking the law known as the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, undercutting a major Trump priority in his second term.

The tariffs currently remain in effect as the appeals court paused its order to give the administration time to seek Supreme Court review.

The Justice Department asked the Supreme Court to decide by September 10 whether it would hear the case. The Justice Department also proposed an accelerated timetable for resolving the litigation, with oral arguments in the first week of November, just a month after the start of the court's 2025-2026 term.

Lawyers for small businesses challenging the tariffs are not opposing the government's request for a Supreme Court hearing. One of the attorneys, Jeffrey Schwab of Liberty Justice Center, said in a statement they would prevail.

"We hope for a prompt resolution of this case for our clients," Schwab said.

The levies are part of a trade war instigated by Trump since he returned to the presidency in January that has alienated trading partners, increased volatility in financial markets and fueled global economic uncertainty.

Trump has made tariffs a pillar of US foreign policy, using them to exert political pressure and renegotiate trade deals and extract concessions from countries that

export goods to the United States.

The litigation concerns Trump's use of IEEPA to impose what Trump calls "reciprocal" tariffs to address trade deficits in April, as well as separate tariffs announced in February as economic leverage on China, Canada and Mexico to curb the trafficking of fentanyl and illicit drugs into the US.

IEEPA gives the president power to deal with "an unusual and extraordinary threat" amid a national emergency and had historically been used for imposing sanctions on enemies or freezing their assets. Prior to Trump, the law had never been used to impose tariffs.

Trump's Department of Justice has argued that the law allows tariffs under emergency provisions that authorize a president to "regulate" imports or block them completely.

The appeals court ruling stems from two challenges, one brought by five small businesses that import goods, in-

cluding a New York wine and spirits importer and a Pennsylvania-based sport fishing retailer. The other was filed by 12 US states — Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Vermont — most of them governed by Democrats.

The Constitution grants Congress, not the president, the authority to impose taxes and tariffs, and any delegation of that authority must be both explicit and limited, according to the lawsuit.

The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, DC, agreed, ruling that the president's power to regulate imports under the law does not include the power to impose tariffs.

"It seems unlikely that Congress intended, in enacting IEEPA, to depart from its past practice and grant the President unlimited authority to impose tariffs," the appeals court said in its 7-4 decision.

Independent experts stress that India's military chiefs deliberately hyped claims of technological superiority — citing Rafales, S-400s, and BrahMos strikes — to manufacture justification for accelerated procurements.

Yet, Pakistani defenses, including the J-10C fleet and layered air systems, neutralized India's so-called superiority, exposing the "success stories" as scripted propaganda.

The synchronized pace of imports — German torpedoes, French Rafales, Russian fighters, Israeli drones, and British propulsion systems — proves this is not improvisation but a long-term procurement roadmap.

The Pahalgam incident, created as a catalyst, creating the urgency required to unlock bud-

gets and win political approval. Observers warn that another staged provocation may follow, allowing India to showcase its new acquisitions.

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NASERABAD: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Inamrini briefing media representatives about the flood situation and measures being taken.

Pakistani Textile Innovators forge new pathways at China's Industry Expo

SHANGHAI (INP): Five of Pakistan's leading textile and apparel manufacturers are capturing international attention at the ongoing Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics - Autumn Edition 2025, a global trade event took place from September 2 to 4. Their presence underlines the vibrant revival of Pakistan's textile sector, which is riding a wave of impressive export growth, according to Gwadar Port.

The industry kicked off the current fiscal year with extraordinary vigor, registering a 32 percent surge in exports in July alone. The sector's exports climbed 7.39 percent to \$17.887 billion, up from \$16.655 billion the previous year, signaling a robust recovery and sustained growth. Participating Pakistani companies are leveraging the expo-one of the oldest and most

prestigious textile events in Shanghai-to foster crucial partnerships. Mr. Shehzad Ahmad Khan, the Pakistani Consul General in Shanghai, emphasized the strategic importance of the platform. "Pakistani companies have a long tradition of participating in international trade fairs and textile exhibitions, which opens up new avenues for growth and collaboration with Chinese companies, particularly in acquiring cutting-edge technology for man-made fabrics and exploring joint ventures and speciality materials," the diplomat also highlighted the potential of the Sino-Pakistani partnership to target international markets collectively. "This type of exhibition enables Pakistani companies to not only upgrade their technological capabilities but also form strategic alliances for entering third-party markets." The timing of the expo aligns with high-level diplomatic engagement, in-

cluding the Pakistani Prime Minister's visit to the SCO summit in Tianjin and the second Pakistan-China Investment B2B Conference in Beijing. Textile is one of the central themes in the bilateral agenda.

These discussions, with numerous joint ventures and technology transfer agreements related to manufacturing facilities in Pakistan expected to be advanced, noted the Consul General.

TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Division, Government of Balochistan, invites applications from eligible firms for the work mentioned below:-

S.S. NAME OF WORKS

1) CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES IN DISTRICT MUSAKHAL UNDER FOLLOWING PSOPs

2) SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM

3) WSS-BASTIAKHAN SHAH PSOP # 4073 TSE-252699040291

4) WSS-BASTIAKHAN MUHAMMAD BULZAD ANDERPUR PSOP # 4074 TSE-252699040313

5) WSS-AL-MUHAMMAD GHAN LINDA PSOP # 4735 TSE-25269904035

6) WSS-MASTER GHULAM MUHAMMAD NATH PSOP # 4735 TSE-25269904035

7) WSS-MOLANAKHOLA KHALIQ KHARA PSOP # 4734 TSE-25269904035

8) WSS-MOLANAKHOLA GHAN PSOP # 4772 TSE-25269904035

9) WSS-BAHAD SHAH NISAR SHAH PSOP # 4803 TSE-25269904035

10) WSS-AL-GHAFAR KHAN PSOP # 4802 TSE-25269904035

11) WSS-MALKI WAZIR SHAH PSOP # 4879 TSE-25269904035

12) WSS-FAZAL DIN PSOP # 4889 TSE-25269904035

13) WSS-HAFIZ NOOR KHAN PSOP # 4899 TSE-25269904035

14) WSS-DR. GHULAM MEHMOOD MEHRI MARRA PSOP # 4907 TSE-25269904035

15) WSS-FAZAL DIN PSOP # 4892 TSE-25269904035

16) WSS-BAND NAKHAN PSOP # 4970 TSE-25269904035

17) WSS-SULTAN BUNAKHANA PSOP # 6986 TSE-252699041103

18) WSS-SALIK WAZIR LILLAH NOZAI KHAN ASLAM SAHAB KHAN MUHAMMAD NOZAI SHAH MUHAMMAD NATH PSOP # 4899 TSE-252699041173

19) WSS-SALIK WAZIR LILLAH NOZAI KHAN ASLAM SAHAB KHAN MUHAMMAD NATH PSOP # 4899 TSE-252699041173

20) WSS-SALIK WAZIR LILLAH NOZAI KHAN ASLAM SAHAB KHAN MUHAMMAD NATH PSOP # 4899 TSE-252699041173

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Lasting peace in South Asia unachievable without Kashmir settlement: APHC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has once again emphasized that a durable peace in South Asia is unattainable unless the Kashmir dispute is resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement, reiterated that Kashmir remains a disputed territory under illegal Indian occupation.

He affirmed that the Kashmiri people will continue their struggle for the right to self-determination, as promised under United Nations resolutions.

The statement condemned the Indian government's continued might policy and illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders and activists, and accused the Modi-led BJP government of using illegal and crude tactics to suppress the Kashmiri sentiments and stand on Kashmiri dispute. The APHC also renewed its demand for the re-opening of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad-Rawalpindi Road, stressing its economic and humanitarian importance.

It highlighted that cross-Line of Control (LoC) trade particularly in Kashmiri fruits and local produce, would boost the region's economy and promote intra-Kashmiri interaction, a step toward peace and

mutual understanding.

The route was suspended by the Indian government in March 2019, and its closure, along with disruptions on the Srinagar-Jammu highway, has led to severe shortages of goods in the Valley, especially during the critical fruit export season.

The APHC has urged the international community and the United Nations to intervene and facilitate a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir issue in accordance with international law and UN resolutions.

The group stressed that without addressing this core issue, peace between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan remains elusive.



ISLAMABAD: I.L.E. Mr. Dan Stoenescu, Ambassador of Romania called on Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

All set to commemorate 'Defense Day' "in AJK with full zeal

MIRPUR (INP): Like throughout Pakistan, all is set to commemorate Defense Day of Pakistan in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Saturday with the renewal of pledge to be alert and vigilant every moment, standing shoulder to shoulder with the valiant armed forces of the country and to defend the ideological and geographical frontiers of the motherland against all threats.

It was on this day in 1965, when the coward Indian military forces through their cowardly act attempted to cross the border in the darkness of night to attack Pakistan, but the valiant armed forces of the country and the nation frustrated the nefarious attempt of the enemy with full vigor.

In this liberated territory of AJK State, this day of exceptional national significance would dawn with special prayer for the stability, defense,

progress and prosperity of Pakistan and for the early success of the Kashmiri freedom movement, besides for the speedy economic uplift of AJK.

The fateha and Quran Khawani would also be held for the martyrs who laid down the supreme sacrifices of their lives for the defense of inch after inch of the motherland shoulder to shoulder the brave armed forces of Pakistan with full vigor in over 17 days war of September 1965 resorting to convincing defeat to India.

The special ceremonies to observe the day will be held at various places in AJK, including at all ten district headquarters of Mirpur, Haveli, Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Rawalakot, Palandri, Kotli, Bhimbher.

Hattian and Neelum valley, with simplicity due to flood destruction in various parts of the country.

In the ceremonies, the speakers will pay rich tributes to the brave armed forces of Pakistan and ghazis, who responded with a crushing reply while sabotaging the enemy's attack on Pakistan.

In Mirpur, various special ceremonies, followed by rallies, would be held to express solidarity with the entire nation, Armed Forces of Pakistan and the martyrs of the country for laying down the supreme sacrifices of their lives for the defense of homeland, the official sources have said.

The ceremonies will be held under the auspices of various social and political organizations to mark the day. The people will visit the martyrs' mausoleums, graves in central graveyard Eid Gah in Mirpur besides at all other locations in AJK, to offer Fateha for the departed souls, besides placing wreaths on their mausoleums.

Amir Muqam hands over relief goods to Afghan authorities

PESHAWAR (INP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Thursday handed over a huge consignment of relief goods to Afghan authorities for assistance of the earthquake victims.

On the direction of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam went to Torkham border in Khyber tribal district where he delivered huge consignment relief goods containing necessary daily use items, food and medicines to authorities of Afghanistan for earthquake victims.

Talking to media persons, Engr Amir Muqam said that the people and government of Pakistan stand with Afghan brothers and sisters in these days of difficulty and this massive relief package was aimed to help the earthquake victims.

At least 1469 people in Afghanistan were killed and around 3700 injured besides nearly five million affected in eastern Afghanistan when a 6 magnitude quake struck it on Sunday, collapsing mud-brick homes on sleeping families.

He said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep condolences and sorrow over loss of lives and properties during the earthquake in Afghanistan.

On the Prime Minister's directions, Engr Amir Muqam said the relief goods consignment was handed over to Afghan authorities at Torkham border that connects Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Soon after the powerful earthquake, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar talked to his Afghan counterpart and assured every possible assistance

and support.

He said Pakistan has also suffered colossal losses due to natural calamities including foods that wreaked havoc first in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and later Gilgit Baltistan and Punjab province.

Besides loss of lives and properties due to floods, he said that livestock, agriculture products, and communication infrastructure including roads and bridges were largely affected in Pakistan.

Engr Amir Muqam appreciated the support of national building departments including NGOs and philanthropists organizations for assistance of flood victims.

Besides representatives of National Disasters Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistani Consul General at Jalalabad Shahidullah and Afghan Consul General at Peshawar Hafiz Mohibullah were also present.



ISLAMABAD: A high-level Pakistani delegation led by Dr. Mahmood Al-Habbash, Chief Islamic Justice of Palestine and Adviser to the President on Religious Affairs and Islamic Relations called on Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf.



BELING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Premier Li Qiang of the People's Republic of China.

M-6, M-10 vital for country's economy: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway (M-6) and the Karachi-Northern Bypass-Jamshoro Motorway (M-10), are vital for the country's economy.

Sindh CM was talking to a delegation, led by Federal Minister Aleem Khan to discuss construction of M-6 and M-10 motorways.

"M-6 would unlock opportunities for the youth of interior Sindh through enhanced connectivity, while M-10 would 'resolve Karachi's traffic bottlenecks once and for all'."

Federal Communications Minister Aleem Khan said that the National Highway Authority will build M-6 project with the cost of 363 billion.

The chief minister and fed-

eral communication minister were briefed by federal Secretary Ali Sher that the Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway (M-6), the last missing north-south motorway link, has received final approval under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). The project, approved by ECNEC for Rs 363 billion.

The National Highway Authority (NHA) will implement the project in five phases. The Islamic Development Bank has committed to funding two sections, while a Chinese company has expressed interest in undertaking all five sections, it was disclosed.

Highlighting its significance, officials said that M-6 would complete Pakistan's north-south motorway backbone, linking Peshawar to

Karachi.

M-10 Motorway

The meeting also discussed the M-10 Motorway project, which has evolved from a simple bypass upgrade into a two-segment mega initiative. The two segments include upgrading Karachi Northern Bypass (34 km) - From ICI Bridge to Hamdard University Chowk, converted into an 8-lane motorway. New 134 km Motorway M-10 through Khirhar Range - A 6-lane motorway linking Hamdard University Chowk to the M-6 at Jamshoro.

Additionally, a 23 km stretch from Hamdard University Chowk to the M-9 will be upgraded to a 6-lane road. This will transform the entire route from Karachi Port to M-6 in Jamshoro into a high-capacity motorway, the meeting was told.

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) disbursed Rs.15.43b during the last five years

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has disbursed Rs.15.43 billion during the last five years, benefitting more than 115,000 patients across the country with free medical treatment including cancer care, dialysis, kidney transplants, heart surgeries and cochlear implants.

According to official data, over 2,000 cochlear implants have been facilitated during this period, enabling hearing-impaired children and adults to lead better lives.

In the field of education, PBM has funded 22 shipwrecks worth Rs. 9.79 billion to deserving students, while 160 Schools for the Rehabilitation of Child Labourers are educating 22,792 child labourers. The organization also operates 46 Sweet Homes in 40 districts, providing shelter, care and education to about 4,600 orphans.

For women empowerment, PBM is running 165 Women Empowerment Centres (WECs) where 19,800 women are being trained this year alone. Since inception, these centres have imparted vocational and household skills to over 475,000 women.

In addition, PBM has extended social support through 17 shelter homes serving 9.66 million people during the last five years, while 30 food vehicles provided 7.75 million meals to deserving individuals.

For persons with disabilities, 394 million was provided to 27,056 families for assistive devices including wheelchairs and artificial limbs.

The organization has also digitized 60 percent of its operations, enabling applicants to apply online for health and education facilities. Full automation of its services is expected in the near future.

Following these achievements, PBM Managing Director Senator Capt (R) Shaleen Khalid Butt, in an exclusive interview with APP, said that the institution is not only addressing immediate financial, health and education needs but also striving to make people self-reliant.

"When I joined PBM, I pledged to move beyond one-time aid and focus on rehabilitation. Our pilot project trained 55 individuals with technical skills, and all of them are now self-suf-

ficient. They told me they no longer need PBM's help, which was the most encouraging feedback. We will expand this project nationwide," he said.

The MD said while education remains an important focus, youth must also be equipped with practical training. "Families with low incomes often believe education alone will solve their problems, but when jobs don't come, frustration builds."

That's why we are pushing skill-based courses in plumbing, carpentry, electrical work and IT. We are also signing MoUs with NAVTTC and other institutions so that those seeking work abroad are trained to earn a respectable livelihood," he noted.

On healthcare, he underlined that PBM is covering medical services that even developed countries often don't provide free of cost. "Any low-income patient can receive treatment at a public hospital on PBM's expense."

The demand for healthcare assistance is rising rapidly, which is why I have requested the Prime Minister to enhance our budget so we can expand services," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power Division, Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, in a meeting with the Asian Development Bank delegation led by Director Energy, Mr. Joonho Hwang.

Suki Kinari Hydropower project marks First Year of commercial operations

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Suki Kinari Hydropower Station, a flagship project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has completed its first full year of commercial operations.

Inaugurated in September 2024, the 884 MW facility has generated over 2.7 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to date, contributing significantly to Pakistan's national grid and helping to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, according to a report carried by Gwadar Post on Thursday.

To mark the anniversary, SK Hydro hosted a Media Open Day at the newly inaugurated CEEC Pakistan Regional Office. Journalists from leading media houses were briefed on the project's performance and toured key facilities, including the CEEC Corporate Culture Exhibition Hall and the under-development "Smart Hydropower" centralized control room, which will further enhance operational efficiency.

Project officials noted that the hydropower station has played a growing role in supporting Pakistan's transition to renewable energy, while also contributing to the diversification of the national power mix.

Beyond energy production, the project has made notable contributions to local development. At peak construction, more than 6,000 workers were employed on-site, while a series of community-focused initiatives have been undertaken in the surrounding areas.

These include afforestation

drives, educational support programs, and the establishment of a trout hatchery aimed at preserving the region's ecological balance.

Infrastructure upgrades, such as improvements to the N15 highway, have also been facilitated through project support, improving connectivity and economic activity in the region. Media representatives praised the quality of construction, operational standards, and the integration of intelligent management systems at the facility.

Many described the Suki Kinari Hydropower Station as a model of CPEC cooperation, demonstrating how strategic energy investments can deliver clean power while also promoting economic and social progress.