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Thursday 11
September, 2025

Pakistan requests emergency UNSC session on Israeli strikes in Doha

Balochistan CM Sarfraz Bugti Vows Zero Tolerance Against Poppy Cultivation



Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has issued a stern warning against poppy cultivation in the province, declaring that not a single inch of land will be allowed for the illicit crop.

Addressing the Balochistan Assembly, CM Bugti said he had long followed the Telegraph journalist who reported on poppy farming in the region, calling him "a credible journalist." However, Bugti made it clear that

regardless of the reporting, his government, with full backing from the federal authorities, is committed to eradicating poppy at all costs.

"We have already destroyed poppy cultivation on 36,000 hectares of land in the province. Pakistan enjoys a poppy-free status, and we will not compromise on it. Anyone found involved will face strict action," the chief minister said.

He emphasized that poppy eradication

is primarily a federal subject, but as a provincial commitment, Balochistan will not only assist but actively participate in operations to root out the narcotics trade.

"We will arrest those involved, seize their lands, and destroy the crop before it matures," he warned.

CM Bugti also cautioned local landowners and Afghan nationals allegedly providing land for the cultivation: "We are going to

pass a strict law from the Assembly to ensure complete eradication of this curse. Through social media, I warn the people of Pakistan — don't get involved. If you do, we are coming after you, and you will be taken to task."

The chief minister reiterated that propaganda and conspiracies against Pakistan would not deter the government's determination to eliminate narcotics cultivation. Balochistan travel guide



FIA Foils Illegal Sea Route Attempt to Iran, 56 Arrested in Gwadar

Behram Baloch: Gwadar: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Composite Circle Gwadar has foiled an attempt to illegally travel to Iran via sea, arresting 56 individuals, including Afghan nationals.

According to FIA, those arrested include 16 from Mandi Bahauddin, 13 from Gujranwala, 8 from Gujrat, 2 from Sheikhupura, 5 from

Muzaffargarh, 3 from Bahawalpur, 2 from Bajaur, and 5 others from Sargodha.

Karachi, Sanghar, Hafizabad, and Khanewal. Two Afghan nationals were

also among those detained. The suspects were arrested from Jiwani while attempting to cross into Iran illegally. Initial investigations revealed that the individuals planned to travel further to other countries after entering Iran. FIA spokesperson confirmed that cases have been registered against the arrested suspects and investigations are underway.

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CJ Balochistan Rozi Khan Bareech Pledges Zero Tolerance for Corruption

Our Correspondent:

TURBAT: Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court, Justice Rozi Khan Bareech, declared that the judiciary will not tolerate corruption and affirmed that no discrimination will be made on the basis of tribe, nation, or community.

Speaking to judicial officers in Turbat, he said that within the judiciary there are only two categories: honest and corrupt.

He stressed that corrupt officials will be strictly dealt with, while honest and hardworking officers will be fully supported and rewarded.



also personally heard the concerns of judicial officers and directed relevant authorities to address their issues promptly.

The session was attended by Justice Iqbal Ahmed Kasi, Qayyum Lehi.

Justice Sardar Ahmed Halimi, and Registrar of the Balochistan High Court, Abdul Qayyum Lehi.

Decision on MDCAT Postponement to Be Made Soon



Syed Muhammad

ISLAMABAD: The fate of this year's Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT) is expected to be decided soon, officials confirmed on Monday.

The matter came under discussion during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health, chaired by Senator Aamir

Waliduddin. PTI Senator Mirza Afridi urged authorities to postpone the exam, arguing that widespread floods have created an emergency situation across the country, leaving students from affected regions unable to prepare properly.

He stressed that Punjab has witnessed the worst devastation, while the floods are now

hitting Sindh as well — areas from where a large number of MDCAT candidates appear each year. Afridi proposed that the test be deferred until November.

Briefing the committee, the President of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) said the decision would be made in consultation with provincial medical universities, which are

responsible for conducting the exam.

PMDC officials clarified that while the universities conduct the test, the council's role is limited to preparing and providing the examination paper.

Senator Mustafa Kamal assured that any decision regarding MDCAT would prioritize the interests of students.

NAB Balochistan Engages Students in Anti-Corruption Seminar at NUML Quetta

News Desk: QUETTA: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan organized a seminar at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Quetta, to highlight the role of students in the fight against corruption.

The event, held under NAB's ongoing awareness campaign, aimed to educate the youth about the destructive impact of corruption on society and to inspire them to become active partners in building a transparent and accountable system.

NAB officers, led by Additional Director Awareness & Prevention, Imran Majeed, interacted with students



and faculty members, sharing the bureau's vision and mission.

During the seminar, the speakers stressed that students must adopt values that reject dishonesty in every form. They noted that Islam emphasizes self-accountability and leaves no space for corruption, whether in the form of bribery, nepotism, favoritism, or misuse of influence.

The officers underlined that while such practices have become normalized in society, collective resistance led by students can help build a corruption-free future.

The session included an interactive discussion where students and faculty raised questions about accountability and governance.

The speakers addressed their concerns and encouraged the participants to play an active role in spreading awareness against corruption.

Director NUML Quetta, Ms. Samreen, appreciated NAB Balochistan's efforts and assured the university's full support for future awareness initiatives.

Pakistan requests emergency UNSC session on Israeli strikes in Doha

NEWS DESK: Pakistan on Wednesday requested an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) following Israeli strikes in Qatar capital Doha, which targeted Hamas leadership.

With Tuesday's strikes, Israel is expanding military actions that have ranged across the Middle East to include the Gulf Arab state, where the Palestinian group has long had its political base. Qatar, which has acted as a mediator alongside Egypt in talks on a ceasefire in the almost two-year-old conflict in Gaza, condemned the attack as "cowardly" and called it a flagrant violation of international law.

In a post on X, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar wrote that Pakistan requested the meeting along with Somalia and Algeria, after "unprovoked illegal Israeli aggression" in Qatar to "discuss the situation and seize itself of this grave matter."

"Pakistan expresses its complete solidarity and firm support with the government and brotherly people of Qatar," Dar wrote.

'Our enemies are not safe anywhere': Israel

Meanwhile, Israel warned its enemies they were not safe anywhere a day after the strikes, which drew a rare rebuke from United States President Donald Trump.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz vowed that



"Israel's long arm will act against its enemies anywhere", following Tuesday's deadly attack on the Gulf state, which hosts a large US military base and has spearheaded repeated rounds of Gaza truce efforts.

"There is no place where they can hide," Katz wrote on X, adding: "Everyone who took part in the October 7 massacre will be held fully accountable," referring to Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel that sparked the nearly two-year Gaza war.

Meanwhile, the Israeli ambassador to the United States said that if Israel failed to kill Hamas leaders in the Tuesday air strike, it would succeed next time.

"Right now, we may be subject to a little bit of criticism. They'll get over it. And Israel is being changed for the better," Yechiel Leiter told Fox News' "Special Report" programme late on Tuesday. "If we didn't get them this time, we'll get them the next time."

Hamas said six people were killed in the strikes, including an aide and an adult son of its top negotiator Khalil al-Hayya, as well as three bodyguards and a Qatari security officer.

But the group said its senior leaders had survived, affirming "the enemy's failure to assassinate our brothers in the negotiating delegation."

The White House said Trump did not agree with Israel's decision to take military action and had warned Qatar in advance of the incoming strikes. But Doha said it had not received the warning from Washington until the attack was already underway.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, sought to justify the decision, telling an Israeli radio station: "We don't always act in the interests of the United States."

"It was not an attack on Qatar; it was an attack on Hamas," Danon told 103FM, adding: "It is too early to comment on the outcome, but the decision is the right one."

Editor: Asim Khan

Cabinet Reshuffle in Balochistan Must Prioritize Governance, Not Power Games

Editorial:

Balochistan appears to be on the cusp of a significant political shake-up. According to credible government insiders, a cabinet reshuffle is expected soon after the passage of the fiscal year 2025-26 provincial budget. While reshuffles are not unusual, the stakes are much higher this time—with growing public discontent over ministerial perks, administrative inefficiencies, and unchecked spending.

Originally planned for post-Eid-ul-Adha, the reshuffle was delayed to ensure the smooth passage of the budget in the Balochistan Assembly. This strategic timing reflects a broader intention: to address key concerns over accountability, fiscal responsibility, and governance.

What's especially noteworthy is the reported plan to replace non-elected members, particularly advisers and women on reserved seats, with elected lawmakers. If implemented with sincerity, this could help restore public trust and reduce unnecessary government expenditure—especially by some advisers enjoy

salaries and allowances equal to full-fledged ministers without the electoral mandate to back them.

Another pressing concern that demands attention is the consistent absence of ministers from their offices. People travel hundreds of kilometers to the Civil Secretariat in Quetta, only to wait in vain for hours or even days. Supporters and citizens are left stranded without even access to clean drinking water, while the ministers remain unavailable. A meaningful reshuffle must bring in dynamic, educated, and service-oriented ministers who are present in their offices, responsive to the public, and capable of addressing basic issues like electricity, grievances, infrastructure complaints, and public service delivery.

Administrative transparency, good governance, and office accountability must no longer be optional for women on reserved seats, with elected lawmakers. If implemented with sincerity, this could help restore public trust and reduce unnecessary government expenditure—especially by some advisers enjoy

Balochistan are not blind to the lavish benefits enjoyed by ministers, even as the province grapples with budget deficits, healthcare underfunding, education sector neglect, and rural infrastructure breakdowns.

The political dynamics of this move are also tied to the 2027 Senate elections, where influence and party strength will rely heavily on elected representatives. This makes the upcoming reshuffle not only a matter of governance but also of long-term political strategy.

Still, the reshuffle must be more than a game of musical chairs. If Balochistan's leadership is serious about reform, it should go beyond token changes. Ministers must demonstrate commitment on performance, transparency, and public engagement—not just political loyalty.

The province deserves a cabinet that reflects competence, accountability, and a genuine commitment to serve, especially at a time when every rupee spent from the public purse is being scrutinized. This reshuffle is an opportunity to reset the system. Wasting it would further deepen public frustration.

By Zahid Hussain:

Judges speak out

JUSTICE Athar Minallah was right when he said that the acceptance of hybrid rule means "there is dictatorship and there is no constitutional governance". But matters go to another level when federal ministers indicate that their government is powerless and that the real authority lies somewhere else. It's not just an admission but acceptance of authoritarian rule by political leaders.

Notwithstanding Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's strong defence of 'hybrid' regime, the fact is that his party's position is merely that of a sleeping partner in a power structure dominated by the security establishment. The façade of civilian rule has worn thin.

Justice Minallah has lamented the lack of constitutional governance in the country, which according to him has led to elite capture. "There is no rule of law or Constitution in the country; there is elite capture," he said in a grim reminder of the prevailing systemic failure in Pakistan.

Nations fail when they lack strong rule of law. The absence of constitutional rule leads to the strengthening of extractive institutions, which benefits few. Countries with strong rule of law and inclusive institutions progress much faster, with the benefits of economic development reaching a larger section of the population. The extractive nature of the Pakistani state has been a major reason for our backwardness and increasing economic disparity, which is very much evident in the country's growing poverty levels.

It is tragic that almost 45 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line and that this shameful percentage is clearly growing. The system cannot even provide education and other essential facilities to the people. But our defence minister wants us to believe that the country is witnessing an economic revival because of 'hybrid' rule. Our rulers fail to see the rising discontent in the populace on account of both economic plight and denial of their fundamental democratic rights.

The very foundation of the so-called hybrid regime is based on manipulated elections and the usurpation of the people's constitutional right to choose their own representatives. The Constitution has been marred by amendments passed by a parliament with a questionable mandate. The independence of the judiciary has been the first casualty of looming authoritarianism in the form of 'hybrid' rule. It is not incorrect to say that through the 26th Constitutional Amendment, the top judiciary has virtually been turned into an extension of the executive.

According to Justice Minallah, the Constitution was the expression of the people's will and based on the people's right to govern through their elected representatives. "No institution or government officer should engage in political engineering. Public representatives must come through free and fair elections. But till today, this has only remained our dream," he said. It is not just unelected institu-

tions that are to blame but also political leaders who are ready to be co-opted into an unconstitutional setup for the sake of power.

The independence of the judiciary has been the first casualty of the looming authoritarianism. Our history is full of such examples. Defenders of 'hybrid' rule like Khawaja Asif have conveniently forgotten their own commitments, while in opposition, to restoring civilian supremacy and upholding the Constitution. Some ruling party leaders reportedly defend their actions as 'necessary compromise'. They refuse to admit that the prevailing political instability in the country is rooted in the denial of the public mandate and the undermining of rule-based constitutional governance.

A controlled media can be used to gloss over the brewing political and social discontent but it won't help resolve the problem. The latest convictions of opposition lawmakers and their being unseated has further damaged the legitimacy of parliament. These dubious measures are meant to provide the ruling coalition a two-thirds majority in the House that would allow it to carry out more changes to the Constitution, thus further eroding the rule of law. A tamed judiciary now makes it extremely difficult to seek judicial recourse.

Justice Minallah is not the only Supreme Court judge to speak out against the curtailment of judicial independence and lack of the rule of law; there have been other strong voices within the institution against the manipulation of the judiciary. In a series of letters, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the senior justice Supreme Court judge, has repeatedly drawn the attention of the chief justice to the violation of the rules.

Justice Shah has questioned the legitimacy of the apex court, pointing out that petitions against the 26th Amendment had remained unheard for nearly a year, though they concerned the Supreme Court's independence. During that period, the apex court was perceived as being packed by judges appointed by what many have seen as a controversial judicial committee. The procedure for the appointment of judges at the high courts and the apex court was changed under the 26th Amendment.

"They must be heard by the original full court, excluding judges elevated after the amendment. Until then, any initiative under your leadership remains institutionally fragile, for its foundation is constitutionally suspect," he has asserted in a recent letter. "True leadership lies not in managing a coalition but in ensuring that the court rises above suspicion as the fearless guardian of the Constitution."

Yet another letter by Justice Shah and three other senior judges last week highlighted the worsening rift within the apex court. The letter questioned the process that has been adopted for the removal and appointment of the Supreme Court Justices, 2025, and termed the full court meeting called for this purpose a mere "stamp of approval for already decided and approved unilaterally."

Zeitenwende — historical turning point and need for a new norm

The world is in the midst of a momentous and complex metamorphosis, a "Zeitenwende," a historic turning point as former German chancellor Olaf Scholz proclaimed on 27 February 2022 following the Russian attack on Ukraine. His verdict has since been validated by the subsequent appalling developments confronted by the world. The massive shelling in Ukraine, the re-orchestration of its role in international arena with the induction of President Donald Trump has continuously stirred the world.

The duo of "America First" and "Make America Greater than Ever Before (MAGA)", signifying a blend of ideological and conservative populism, has already excited serious implications for the world order.

The arbitrary and selective imposition of new tariffs regime and blatant use of intimidation and bare-knuckled power unequivocally speak of America's intent to determine and enforce the rules of international engagement to the contemptuous neglect of the universally agreed norms of multilateralism.

Humanity is also dumbfounded to witness, as a captive herd, "the real time livestreamed and well-documented" genocide, bloodbath and ethnic cleansing ruthlessly unleashed by Israel in Gaza since October 2023.

The death toll of Palestinians has surpassed 62,000 including those desperately seeking humanitarian aid amid tight siege of the Strip as a declared punitive policy and weapon of war.

The living conditions for the 2.4 million Gaza inhabitants are a p o c a l y p t i c characterized by famine, hunger, disease and death—not to speak of almost total disruption of essential services and utilities.

By Shahid Najam:

Parachinar and the dream of perpetual peace

Parachinar, the capital of District Kurram in Kohat Division of K-P, has long stood as a grim symbol of the country's unresolved sectarian conflict. Over the years, this once peaceful region has been transformed into a flashpoint of violence between various residential communities.

Parachinar's sectarian crisis is not merely ideological. It is also deeply rooted in local disputes particularly over land and worsened by regional geopolitics. During the Soviet-Afghan War in the 1980s, Parachinar's strategic location near the Afghan border made it a key corridor for fighters and weapons.

Arms supplied to Afghan mujahideen by foreign powers eventually flooded local markets.

Both Sunni and Shia groups in Kurram accessed these weapons, heavily militarising the region and enabling small conflicts to erupt into deadly confrontations.

The spread of weapons was accompanied by inflammatory religious rhetoric. Clerics openly incited hatred, labelling opposing sects as heretical. As a result, mistrust and hatred between communities deepened.

The 2000s brought further instability. Despite bans on extremist groups by Gen Musharraf, sectarian killings and suicide attacks increased.

By Alia Batool:

Millions in Balochistan to Gain Flood Protection, Housing, and Essential Services Through Major Resilience Drive

Historic Recovery Effort in Balochistan

Balochistan is set to witness a major transformation as millions of residents across 32 flood-affected districts benefit from new flood protection measures, housing reconstruction, and the restoration of essential services. Over 2.7 million people are expected to directly benefit from the initiative, with 1.8 million gaining protection against future floods and more than 105,000 homes being rebuilt for displaced families.

The region, which suffered devastating losses during the 2022 floods, is now being

equipped with stronger, climate-resilient infrastructure designed to withstand future disasters.

Beyond rebuilding homes and infrastructure, the initiative is restoring hope—securing clean water, healthcare, education, and sustainable livelihoods for communities that were pushed into extreme vulnerability.

Local officials stress that the real success will not be measured by the number of projects completed, but by the resilience of families who will be able to rebuild their lives with dignity, security, and opportunity. "This is about making

sure that the people of Balochistan never again have to endure the same level of devastation," a senior government representative said.

Building Resilience, Not Just Rebuilding

Rather than simply repairing what was lost, the Integrated Flood Resilience and Adaptation Project (IFRAP) focuses on making Balochistan stronger against future climate shocks. Key elements of the project include constructing resilient housing, building embankments and flood channels, restoring health and education services, and supporting farmers and small

businesses to revive local economies.

Every project is guided by community input, ensuring that local needs shape the recovery.

By prioritizing

marginalized groups, especially women and vulnerable populations, IFRAP aims to create an inclusive and sustainable recovery.

A Lifeline for Millions

In addition to physical reconstruction, the project is improving early warning systems, providing better water management solutions.

Syed Ali Shah:

What's it good for?

DONALD Trump's

rebranding of the US Department of Defence as the Department of War may seem incongruous for a president

hankering after the Nobel Peace Prize. Inevitably, there is a degree of age, when the brain is particularly susceptible to the significant conflicts it has embarked upon in the past 80 years, reverting to a more instinctive war terminology can revitalise its reputation as an aggressor. His ignorance on a vast range of fronts presumably clouds his impression of World War II, in which

on chicken and mendacity.

But his chicanery and more grotesque than the public image it seeks to project.

Trump seems to think that since the US has not decisively triumphed in any of the significant conflicts it has embarked upon in the past 80 years, reverting to a more instinctive war terminology can revitalise its reputation as an aggressor. His ignorance on a vast range of fronts presumably clouds his impression of World War II, in which

the American role, no doubt key to the outcome, is a considerable extent on the efforts of its allies—notably the Soviet Union and the British Empire.

Post-war American interventions were far less impressive not because the Pentagon did not devote enough resources, but because they were misguided. The anti-communist crusades in the Cold War era cost millions of (mainly Asian) lives without bringing the US any strategic advantage as a global hegemon, and much the same

could be claimed about its 21st-century interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq and so on. Throughout these decades, it would have been not just appropriate but accurate for the Pentagon to be tagged as the Department of War.

The US failed to triumph in these conflicts not due to a dearth of resources, but because in each case—as Omar Bradley, the then chairman of the joint chiefs of staff,

By Mahir Ali:

Potential to prosperity

EVERY \$1 invested in

nutrition yields \$23 in economic returns according to global studies. This is particularly true when that investment happens early, from conception to two years of age, when the brain and body grow at their fastest, requiring adequate amounts of essential nutrients.

The returns are real:

they are seen in children who grow and develop well, stay healthier, remain in school longer and grow into productive adults. Good nutrition reduces healthcare costs, strengthens communities, and drives national progress.

But the reverse is equally true—when this investment is missed, the costs are staggering, with inaction projected

to cost \$41 trillion globally over the next 10 years. Malnutrition robs children of their potential and nations of their future.

It weakens bodies and impairs cognitive development, locking families into cycles of poverty that can last for generations. The world is off track to end malnutrition. The crisis that continues to nearly half of all

deaths among children under five and one in five maternal deaths.

In Pakistan today, nearly 40 per cent, and in the poorest quintile 50pc, of children are stunted. Stunting means a child is too short for their age, signalling prolonged inadequate nutrition.

By Saskia de Pee / Nazier Ahmed:

Clarity of knowledge

In public discussions

about education, we often hear about the "information revolution". We are told that students today are luckier than ever before, with instant access to books, articles, lectures, and ideas from across the globe. And in some sense, this is true. Never before has information been so abundant, so immediate, and so available to people in every corner of society. Yet from my experience as a faculty member in a public sector university, I can say with certainty: abundance of information does not automatically produce clarity of knowledge.

This paradox is visible in our classrooms every day. Students arrive armed with smartphones and search engines, but when asked

to explain concepts in their own words or connect theories across disciplines, many struggle.

The issue is not a lack of access to data but a lack of clarity in processing it. They often find themselves overwhelmed, caught between facts and opinions, unable to distinguish good evidence from speculation. In this sense, the very revolution of information threatens to bury genuine knowledge under the weight of its own excess.

Information without clarity can mislead just as easily as it can inform. A poorly understood scientific finding or a misinterpreted historical fact may spread confusion or even be weaponised as misinformation. In contrast, knowledge that is tested, explained, and placed in context empowers students to think

critically and act responsibly. Clarity is what turns passive data into active understanding.

The challenge is that our education system has not adapted to this reality. Public sector universities, despite their dedicated faculty and bright students, remain locked in old habits. We still reward memorisation over reflection, and reproduction over reasoning. Exams are designed to test how well students can recall, not how well they can explain or apply. In an era when knowledge demands synthesis and depth, we are still clinging to a model suited to an age of scarcity, not abundance.

The responsibility of educators, therefore, must shift. We are no longer mere transmitters of facts. Our role is to

cultivate clarity. That means teaching students to question sources, to compare viewpoints, and to analyse assumptions. It means encouraging dialogue, debate and curiosity in classrooms rather than silence and rote learning. Only then can information be transformed into insight.

But individual teachers cannot carry this burden alone. Universities must support a culture of clarity by reforming assessment systems and academic structures. Instead of rewarding rote memorisation, we must design assessments that measure understanding, open-ended questions, project-based evaluations and inquiry-driven assignments.

By Dr Inshukh Ullat:

Colossal void

DISASTERS happen

when hazards hit vulnerabilities. The greater the awareness of this lethal combination, the more the sensitivity to disaster risks and the better the preparedness. Resultantly, the stronger the resilience. This is a global lesson. Its conceptual journey, however, took many decades.

A major breakthrough was achieved in 2005 in Kobe, Japan, in the wake of the devastating earthquake. The Framework for Action 2005-15, which aimed at "building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters". Subsequently, in 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015-30, was approved

and adopted by member states. The priorities were to "reduce losses in lives, livelihoods, economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, communities and countries". Pakistan, too, adopted both frameworks.

But, unlike other countries, for Pakistan, it has turned out to be a colossal void. In the last 20 years, Pakistan's disaster risk reduction and management efforts have been primarily based on the above two frameworks and were being prepared by international experts with UN and donor assistance.

The establishment of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is being financed lavishly and empowered through the National Disaster Man-

agement Act, 2010.

The authorities

have failed miserably to respond effectively to the recent disaster.

Proverbially, power and responsibility are two sides of the same coin, but not here. Since its creation in 2006, except for two years, the NDMA has been run by serving or retired generals. Its website is impressive. Barring a few short-comings, it contains world-class documents, including a wealth of knowledge, including hazard and vulnerability mapping, impressive disaster risk reduction NDMA Act and policy documents, and also value stakeholders' participation at each stage of the disaster management cycle. One can also find DRM training manuals, annual and five-year plans, as well

as contingency plans.

Above all, most of its

units appear to be run by smart people.

However, just as the proof of the pudding is in the eating, the relevance and efficacy of the above lies in the results. Sadly, despite the legal requirements under the NDMA Act, one can't find anything on the ground regarding community involvement in DRR or the capacity building of disaster-prone people. The NDMA Plan-25 also commits to community awareness and participation as its proprietary Chapter 3 of the plan under anticipatory actions requires strengthening the capacities of district disaster management authorities.

By Sarwar Bari:

Over 1.4m consumers restored power supply

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Energy (Power Division) on Wednesday released its latest report regarding electricity restoration in flood-hit areas, confirming that over 1.4 million consumers have had their supply restored while work continues for the remaining users.

According to the Power Division's latest report, overall, a total of 51 grid stations and 526 feeders were affected. So far, 286 feeders have been fully restored, while 233 are partially operational. Out of 1,713,786 affected consumers, electricity has been restored to 1,429,415.

Peshawar Electric Supply

Company (PESCO), Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO), Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO), Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO), and Hazara Electric Supply Company (HAZECO) have resumed partial or full operations, with Swat, Swabi, and D.I. Khan fully restored and other areas expected to recover within days.

In PESCO-managed areas, including Swat, Buner, Shangla, Swabi, and D.I. Khan, 12 grid stations and 91 feeders were impacted by the floods. Out of

these, 86 feeders have been fully restored, while 5 have been partially restored. As a result, electricity has been restored to 461,049 out of 463,375 consumers. Restoration work for the remaining consumers is expected to be completed by September 11-12.

In GEPCO's jurisdiction, 11 grid stations and 103 feeders were affected. Out of these, 96 feeders have been fully restored, while 7 have been partially restored, enabling the restoration of power supply to 734,186 out of 735,987 consumers. Restoration for the remaining will be carried out as soon as the floodwater recedes.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science & Technology, Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsoo, calling on President Asif Ali Zardari at Awan-e-Sadr.

China to work with Pakistan to implement outcome of Tianjin Summit: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (INP): China will work with Pakistan to accelerate the implementation of the outcomes of the Tianjin Summit, carry forward the Shanghai Spirit and pool the strength of the SCO with concrete actions.

This aims at building a closer SCO community with a shared future and make new contributions to the development and growth of the Global South and the prosperity and development of regional countries.

This was stated by Ambassador Jiang Zaidong at a media interaction held here at Chinese Embassy.

China believes that Pakistan played an active and positive in the successful conduct of recently held SCO's Summit and achieving its objectives.

He said, Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif attended all the activities of the Summit and made a solid contribution developing the SCO as a strong platform as well as giving boost to Sino-Pak bilateral ties.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong took relevant questions about the SCO, including the President Xi Jinping Global Governance Initiative. He to a question, he said, "Chinese President Xi Jinping while addressing SCO Plus Meeting in Tianjin had proposed the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), calling on countries to work in concert for a more just and equitable global governance system."

The GGI marks the fourth landmark global initiative proposed by Xi over the past several years, following the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative.

Xi highlighted five principles of the GGI -- adhering to sovereign equality, abiding by interna-

tional rule of law, practicing multilateralism, advocating the people-centered approach, and focusing on taking real actions."

The ambassador also talked about the grand military parade held in Beijing on September 3 commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. The purpose of the parade was to remember history, honor fallen heroes, cherish peace, and create a better future.

This marked the complete victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. It was a historic turning point for the Chinese nation emerging from the grave crises in modern times to embark on the journey toward great rejuvenation; it was also a major turning point in the course of world history.

On the occasion, Counselor Wang Shengjie gave a briefing about PM Shabbaz Sharif's visit to China, SCO Tianjin Summit and the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. PM's Special Representative on China Zafar Uddin Mahmood shared his personal comments on the summit and the PM's visit. Replying to questions, the Ambassador further said, "This was the fifth time that China had hosted the SCO summit. It brought the 'China Year' of the SCO since China assumed the presidency in July last year to a grand finale. It was a gathering of unity, friendship and fruitful outcomes, with distinctive features and many highlights. Personally I'd like to share following three aspects."

First, old and new friends gathered in Tianjin. More than 20 foreign heads of state and government and 10 heads of international organizations attended the summit.

President Xi Jinping intensively attended nearly 20 bilateral and multilateral events, honoring friendship and planning development with other leaders, building consensus and stimulating momentum for cooperation, and pushing the SCO into a new stage of high-quality development featuring greater unity, more emphasis on collaboration, more vitality and more achievements. Second, the outcomes of cooperation cover many areas.

A 10-year development strategy was formulated, the outcomes of the victory in World War II were upheld, the multilateral trading system was supported, four security centers were established, a decision was made to set up an SCO development bank, six platforms for practical cooperation were launched, and six action plans for high-quality development were drawn up.

Third, China has made outstanding contributions on the sidelines during the recent floods, ensuring that immediate and sustained relief reached the affected people quickly.

He said Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif visited various flood-hit areas of KP including Swat, Buner, Shangla, and Swabi shortly after the disaster struck on August 15.

During these visits, the PM personally oversaw relief activities and provided medical supplies, and handed over compensation cheques to victims.

He also issued clear directives to relevant authorities and humanitarian organizations to ensure the provision of full support and assistance to those affected.

Highlighting the coordinated efforts of PML-N leaders, Ikhtiar Wali reiterated that former Federal Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for S&PRN, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam, and he himself conducted visits to hard-hit regions such as Bajaur.

During these visits, they met with local communities, assessed on-ground conditions, and distributed compensation to those who had lost their homes, livestock and livelihoods.

Ikhtiar Wali underlined that PML-N was of people's party capable of sincerely addressing the pressing issues of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"Our party believes in practical service rather than mere rhetoric," he said, adding that the PML-N has a proven track record of responding effectively in times of crisis.

He further said that regular meetings with party workers and local leaders have already commenced in an effort to strengthen party organization, resolve internal issues, and reconnect with the grassroots.

"We are committed to reorganizing the party structure at the district and tehsil levels across KP. The people of this province will be made fully aware of the achievements of the PML-N government, both at the federal and provincial levels," he added.

Concluding his remarks, Ikhtiar Wali reiterated the PML-N's commitment to serving the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, paraded in times of distress.

He called on all party workers to continue their engagement with local communities and ensure that relief efforts are sustained until full rehabilitation is achieved.

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman of State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovation of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ulvi Mehdiyev calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif.

China highly appreciates Pakistan's active role in SCO Summit: Says Chinese Envoy

ISLAMABAD (INP): China believes that Pakistan played an active and positive in the successful conduct of recently held SCO's Summit and achieving its objectives.

This was stated by Ambassador Jiang Zaidong at a media interaction held here at Chinese Embassy. He said, Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif attended all the activities of the Summit and made a solid contribution developing the SCO as a strong platform as well as giving boost to Sino-Pak bilateral ties.

He referred to Shabbaz Sharif's sideline meeting with President Xi Jinping and said both sides agreed for building an even closer Pakistan-China community with a shared destiny in the new era.

Pakistan, the ambassador said, had been making outstanding contribution in the success of the SCO. On the occasion of the summit, President Asif Ali

Zardari wrote an exclusive article on the Summit for China Daily.

While attending the Summit, the Prime Minister assured that Pakistan fully stand by China for pushing forward the SCO's objectives and carrying forward the Shanghai's spirit.

About China's contribution, the ambassador said, China announced measures to implement 100 "small and beautiful" livelihood projects in member states within three years. Besides this, they will also extend an additional RMB 10 billion in loans to members of the SCO Inter-bank Consortium with next three years.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong took relevant questions about the SCO, including the President Xi Jinping Global Governance Initiative.

He said the Pakistan and China have decided to work together for the implementation of good governance in order to promote a better future for the entire humanity.

Chinese President Xi Jinping while addressing SCO Plus Meeting in Tianjin had proposed the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), calling on countries to work in concert for a more just and equitable global governance system.

The GGI marks the fourth landmark global initiative proposed by Xi over the past several years, following the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative.

Xi highlighted five principles of the GGI -- adhering to sovereign equality, abiding by international rule of law, practicing multilateralism, advocating the people-centered approach, and focusing on taking real actions.

The ambassador also highlighted the grand military parade held in Beijing.

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PML-N played pivotal role in spearheading flood relief, rehabilitation operations in KP's flood-affected districts

PESHAWAR, Sept 10 (INP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Information and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Affairs, Ikhtiar Wali Khan has emphasized the pivotal role played by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership and workers in spearheading flood relief and rehabilitation operations in the flood-affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking to media representatives after formally assuming charge of his Peshawar office, Ikhtiar Wali Khan said that PML-N leaders have remained on the frontlines during the recent floods, ensuring that immediate and sustained relief reached the affected people quickly.

He said Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif visited various flood-hit areas of KP including Swat, Buner, Shangla, and Swabi shortly after the disaster struck on August 15.

During these visits, the PM personally oversaw relief activities and provided medical supplies, and handed over compensation cheques to victims.

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Intermittent monsoon rainfall continuing in various localities of the city on Wednesday

KARACHI (INP): Intermittent monsoon rainfall continuing in various localities of the city on Wednesday as maximum rainfall 129.6mm received in Surjani Town of Karachi.

Light to moderate rainfall reported in various areas of Karachi including Jail Chowrangi, Shahheed-e-Millat Road, Tariq Road and adjacent areas, Hassan Square, PIB Colony, Saddar, M.A. Jinnah Road, Garden, Golimar, Shara-e-Faisal, Shah Faisal Colony, Malir and other areas.

Sporadic rainfall will be continued in the city until the night on Wednesday under the influence of current weather system, the Met Office has said in its weather report.

The wet spell is expected to persist with moderate rainfall for next two days,