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Governor Kundi condemns Punjab govt's 'arbitrary ban' on wheat supply to KP

Grand Jirga Held in Sibi to Promote Peace, Development, and Unity in Balochistan



From Our Correspondent:
SIBI: A grand jirga was convened in Sibi with the participation of Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Commander 12 Corps Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, IG FC Balochistan (North), IG Police Balochistan, provincial ministers, Chief Secretary Balochistan, and tribal elders of Sibi Division.

ity, accelerate development projects, and improve public welfare. Tribal leaders highlighted local issues and shared recommendations, which government representatives and security officials assured would be addressed on a priority basis. Governor Mandokhail stressed that the province's progress and prosperity are only possible through cooperation among all stakeholders. He urged the government, security institutions, and tribal elders to work together to bring Balochistan into the national mainstream of development.

Chief Minister Bugti, in his address, acknowledged the importance of tribal traditions and the jirga system, assuring that the government is taking all possible steps with public support to maintain peace and advance development. Commander 12 Corps, Lt Gen Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, reaffirmed that security forces remain committed not only to ensuring peace and stability but also to creating positive opportunities for the youth of the province.

During the jirga, the Quetta-Dhadar (N-65) Road expansion and structural improvement project was also inaugurated. Officials said the project will not only improve traffic flow but also play a key role in boosting the region's economic and social development.



Three Killed, Four Abducted in Firing Incident in Kharan's Lajay Area

Three Killed, Four Abducted in Firing Incident in Kharan's Lajay Area

From Our Correspondent:

KHARAN: At least three people were shot dead while four others were abducted by unidentified gunmen in the Lajay area of Kharan district, Balochistan, on Thursday.

According to local sources, armed assailants opened fire, killing three men on the spot. The victims were identified as Jangi Khan, Samullah, and Syed Khan. Their bodies were shifted to Kharan District Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The attackers also took four more individuals with them, who are said to be local residents of the



area. Law enforcement agencies have launched an investigation into the incident.

and initiated efforts to trace those abducted. The tragic incident has spread fear among

residents, while security has been tightened in the region to prevent further violence.

CTD Foils Terror Plot in Pishin, Eliminates Four Militants; CM Bugti Lauds Operation

News Desk:
QUETTA: Four terrorists were neutralized during a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) operation in Balochistan's Pishin district, officials confirmed on Thursday.

The operation was carried out after intelligence indicated the presence of armed extremists in the area.

A heavy exchange of fire broke out, leaving four militants dead. Security officials reported seizing two machine guns, two 9mm pistols, hand grenades, explosives, and detonators from the site.

Authorities said the group was preparing to carry out attacks, but the swift action of CTD forces prevented blood-



shed. Reacting to the development, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti praised the clear and efficient conduct of the CTD personnel. He said the timely operation had thwarted a major terror plan and reassured the public of the government's unwavering commitment to peace.

"Our mission is clear—terrorism and extremism will be eradicated from Balochistan. We will not allow these elements to destabilize

our province," the chief minister said in a press statement. Bugti added that his government would continue to extend full support to security agencies in their ongoing campaign against militancy.

Security forces kill 19 terrorists in 3 separate operations across KP: ISPR

NEWS DESK: Security forces have killed 19 terrorists in three separate operations across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the military's media wing said on Thursday.

Authorities said the group was preparing to carry out attacks, but the swift action of CTD forces prevented blood-

Pakhtunkhwa Province." The state uses the term Fitna al Khwarij to refer to terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). It later designated Balochistan groups as Fitna al-Hindistan to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan. The ISPR said that an intelligence-based operation was conducted in KP's

Mohmand district upon the reported presence of terrorists there. "During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij's location, and after an intense fire exchange, fourteen Indian-sponsored khwarij were sent to hell." It added that another intelligence-based operation was conducted in the general Datta Khel area of the North Waziristan district, where, during the ensuing fire exchange, four more terrorists were neutralised by the security forces. In another encounter that took place in Bannu district, the statement added, "Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from Indian-sponsored khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in these areas."

Some market analysts believe the ongoing wheat crisis is unrelated to the recent floods in Punjab and other regions, as the new wheat crop was harvested in March/April. However, hoarders, stockists and investors are reportedly holding substantial wheat stocks, waiting for further price hikes driven by supply and demand dynamics.

On Tuesday, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz announced a three-day grace period for all wheat hoarders to voluntarily declare their inventory or face action.

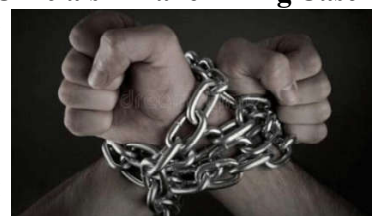
The government has also recently unveiled a new roadmap for the 'National Wheat Policy and Wheat Management Strategy' for 2025-26 and onwards that will serve as a long-term plan to ensure food security, safeguard farmers' livelihoods, protect consumers and build resilience against market disruptions and climate-induced emergencies.

Balochistan Anti-Corruption Establishment Arrests Former Senior Officials in Fake Hiring Case

Qasem Shah:
QUETTA: The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Balochistan has arrested two former senior officials on charges of illegal appointments and misuse of authority. Those taken into custody include former Deputy Director General ACE Babar Bugti and former District Accounts Officer, Margat.

According to an official statement, the arrests were made on the directives of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, who has instructed strict action against those responsible for corruption. Following a detailed investigation, a formal case has been registered against the accused and further inquiries are underway.

Director General



ACE Balochistan, Ghulam Abbas, and Deputy Director General Ahmed Umar Baloch, supervised the probe. Investigators revealed that on June 15, 2023, at least 36 illegal appointments were made in the Education Department, putting undue financial burden on the provincial exche-

quer. The inquiry found that the appointments violated the Balochistan Rules and Regulations Act of 1991. The report concluded that the then Deputy Director General ACE, Babar Bugti, and District Accounts Officer Margat had misused their official powers. Both have now been

taken into custody, while additional legal proceedings and accountability measures are in progress. The ACE reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing all those involved in corruption and assured that further details will be shared after the investigation concludes.

Governor Kundi condemns Punjab govt's 'arbitrary ban' on wheat supply to KP

NEWS DESK: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday condemned the Punjab government's reported ban on wheat supply to his province.

Kundi had last week expressed his regret over reports that wheat supply from Punjab had been suspended. However, Punjab officials tasked with maintaining supplies of commodities and regulating their prices denied there was any ban on the grain's inter-provincial movement.

"The arbitrary ban imposed on August 31, 2025, by the Government of Punjab on the supply of wheat and flour to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a blatant violation of Article 151 of the Constitution and a serious breach of national unity," Kundi said on X.

The Constitution's Article 151 states that "trade, commerce and intercourse throughout Pakistan shall be free," but empowers the parliament to "impose such restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce or intercourse between one province and another or within any part of Pakistan as may be required in the public interest."

The KP government further noted: "As a result, the price of a 20kg bag of flour has soared to approximately Rs 1,200 in Punjab and up to Rs 2,800 in KP—an unbearable burden on families already



struggling with inflation.

"On behalf of the people of KP, I strongly condemn this discriminatory act and urge Chief Minister Punjab [Maryam Nawaz] to not only condemn but also immediately withdraw the verbal ban," he added.

Stressing that food security cannot be "compromised by arbitrary bar-

KP Governor attends provincial assembly session, lauds new Rules of Procedure 2025

PESHAWAR, Sept 10 (INP). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday attended the provincial assembly session on the invitation of Speaker Babar Saleem Swati and addressed the ceremony marking the ratification of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Rules of Procedure 2025.

Congratulating Speaker Babar Saleem Swati and Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on the adoption of new rules, the

Governor said the occasion marked a historic milestone in the province's parliamentary journey.

He emphasized that the Rules of Procedure 2025 were not just a renewal but a reaffirmation of democratic values and institutional efficiency, tailored to the challenges of the present and the needs of the future.

The Governor recalled that the first set of rules had been framed in 1973, and now, after 37 years, a comprehensive

revision had been introduced. Highlighting the constitutional bond between the Governor's Office and the Provincial Assembly,

Kundi said that assembly sessions were summoned and prodded by the Governor and that legislation passed by the House came into force only after the Governor's assent. This relationship, he said, underlined harmony, mutual respect, and shared responsibility between the two institutions for the

strengthening of democracy.

He urged all stakeholders to work collectively for the province's progress, prosperity, and peace, stressing that unity was vital for safeguarding provincial autonomy and addressing public issues.

The Governor also appreciated the Deputy Speaker, current and former legislators, the Law Department, and Assembly Secretariat staff for their significant role in this historic achievement.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, held a meeting with Ahmed Zahid, CEO and Country Chairman of Chevron Pakistan.

Chinese researchers introduce new sesame varieties in Pakistan: Prof. Yuan Guobao

ISLAMABAD (INP). Chinese researchers will soon bring some sesame varieties that have been bred locally and planted on a large scale to Pakistan for further screening to ensure the best

genoplasm. In China, when people think of sesame, their first impression is rich oil or fragrant pastries. But in fact, this crop could become a 'chip' that leverage the upgrading of international industries.

"What many people don't know is that sesame is one of China's most important crops, after soybeans. China imports 85% of our soybeans annually, as well as the proportion of sesame imports is similar."

Currently, China's total annual sesame demand is approximately 1.5 million tons, of which 300,000 tons are domestically produced, leaving the remaining 1.2 million tons imported.

Not only that, consumption is increasing year by year. What do these statistics indicate? Seizing the Chinese market can bring endless opportunities," after the signing of the

China-Pakistan Memorandum of Understanding on sesame on September 5, Professor Yuan Guobao, said Chairman of the Hubei Technical Market Association in an interview to China Economic Net (CEN).

The MoU is made between the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), Oil Crop Research Institute-Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China (CAAS) and Hubei Province Lianfeng Overseas Agricultural Development Group Co., Ltd. (Hubei Lianfeng Group).

OCRI-CAAS, UAF, and Hubei Lianfeng Group agree to jointly develop high-quality, stress-resistant sesame varieties, with key areas include the evaluation of sesame genetic resources and the discovery of high-quality materials, the identification of genes or quantitative trait loci (QTLs) related to sesame yield and stress resistance, and the training of related talents.

The steady demand for sesame in China, driven by its use in traditional food products and oil extraction, has created lucrative opportunities for both countries.

opportunities for Pakistani farmers and exporters. Recognizing this huge demand, Pakistan has actively promoted sesame exports to China.

To further expand the market, closer industrial cooperation to bring about higher output and quality is also a necessary prerequisite.

After ten years of research, it goes without saying that if China's excellent sesame varieties are able to take root on a large scale in Pakistan, it will undoubtedly bring a win-win situation for both countries.

First, sesame is a very drought-tolerant crop, which is well suited to growing in Pakistan's relatively water-scarce environment. Next, sesame has a relatively short growing period to match precious land resources in Pakistan. Crops with a short growing period make it convenient for them to plant other crops after harvest, further improving efficiency," Yuan analyzed.

The reporter learned that Chinese researchers will soon bring some sesame varieties that have been bred locally and planted on a large scale to Pakistan for further screening

to ensure the best genoplasm. "Although both are located in the Northern Hemisphere, Pakistan's latitude is lower than China's. Therefore, we need to adapt to local conditions and follow natural laws."

We have selected some sesame varieties with good adaptability from southern China for trial planting," Yuan added, "Furthermore, local farmers sow sesame by hand, which makes it difficult to evenly distribute the seeds."

We could promote the use of specialized sesame seedling machines to greatly improve sowing efficiency. Besides, our specialized sesame herbicides are going to reduce the labor intensity of local farmers.

Pakistan has emerged as a major player in the global sesame trade, with exports to China skyrocketing in recent years.

Over the past five years, Pakistan's sesame production has surged by an impressive 45%, reaching an annual output of 1.19 million tons, while exports have grown by 32% to 760,000 tons, generating \$1.073 billion in revenue.

Speaking in RS Pura, he said, "Perhaps the conduct of the MLA may have been questioned, but invoking PSA on an elected representative is fundamentally wrong. This reflects a dangerous tussle between bureaucracy and democracy."

The arrest has triggered widespread protests across Doda, Jammu and Kashmir, with residents demanding Malik's release. Authorities have responded with heavy deployment of forces and prohibitory restrictions, but the agitation continues to grow, highlighting deepening public anger against the misuse of draconian laws in the territory.

Shamasuddin Malik, father of the detained Malik, stressed that his son's popularity is unwarranted, and the people had made him a target.

Meanwhile, IOJK Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra described the PSA detention as a "direct attack on democracy."



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar presides over a meeting of the Balochistan Healthcare Commission Board.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Asim Kurd Gilo and Mir Saleem Khan Khosa are meeting with Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai.

AJK parliamentary delegation calls for unified national stance on Kashmir

PESHAWAR, Sept 11 (INP). A high-level parliamentary delegation from Azad Jammu and Kashmir has urged Pakistan's political parties to adopt a unified and comprehensive national policy for the liberation of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation, led by Speaker of the AJK Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar, met with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Prime Minister Raja Farooq Ahmad Rathore, Diwan Ali

Chughtai and Ahmad Raza Qadri, Assembly Secretary Chaudhry Basharat, Special Secretary Amjad Latif Abbasi, and other political figures.

The meeting, hosted at the residence of PPP Central General Secretary Muhammad Humayun Khan, was attended by senior party leaders including former provincial minister Syed Zahur Ali Shah, and other office-bearers.

The participants discussed the international significance of the Kashmir dispute, the prevailing grim situation in Indian illegally occupied

Jammu and Kashmir, and emphasized the need for a strong unified stance from Pakistan's political leadership to effectively highlight the Kashmir cause at global forums.

On the occasion, Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar appealed to all political parties in Pakistan to jointly formulate a consistent national policy, saying that a collective voice would strengthen Pakistan's position and the office-bearers.

He expressed gratitude to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

for their unwavering support for the Kashmir cause.

PPP General Secretary Humayun Khan reaffirmed his party's historic commitment to Kashmir, recalling that the party's founding leadership had pledged to wage a thousand-year struggle for its liberation. He said that even today, the PPP's third generation remains dedicated to pursuing this mission on political and diplomatic fronts.

He reiterated that Kashmir has always been a top priority for the PPP, which will continue to represent the cause at national and international platforms.

Over 600 homes of Bengali-speaking Muslims razed in Assam

GUWAHATI (INP).

In Assam, India, hundreds of homes belonging to Bengali-speaking Muslim families have been demolished by the augmented forces, triggering allegations of grave human rights violations and systemic discrimination. According to Kashmir Media Service, the Socialist Party India (SPI) strongly condemned the demolitions, terming them "illegal and inhumane." SPI Parliamentary Board Chairman Syed Tahseen Ahmed said the affected families possessed all necessary documents, yet their homes and businesses were bulldozed. "These people

have lived here for decades. Under which law is it justified to destroy entire villages with just two days' notice?" he asked. An eight-member SPI delegation visited the affected areas to assess the humanitarian crisis. The delegation reported that in Hasila Bhal alone, 667 families are now living in temporary shelters provided by a local Muslim farmer, who himself is facing harassment from the authorities. In Jannapur, 161 families lost their homes built

on land temporarily provided by locals, while in Bakipara Dhabari district, nearly 2,000 families — about 10,000 people — were displaced. "All these people are now living under the open sky in makeshift tents, without food, health facilities or clean water," Ahmed said. He added that around 200 police personnel had cordoned off some areas, restricting access, though more than 100 residents managed to navigate their ordeal to the SPI delegation. "This is not just about property, it is about dignity, survival, and fundamental rights," Ahmed stressed. So-

cial media activists and rights groups have expressed outrage, saying the demolitions specifically targeting Bengali-speaking Muslims with valid documentation amount to a deliberate campaign of exclusion. Observers warned that the forced displacement of thousands without due process is a direct violation of India's own constitutional protections and international human rights law. The SPI delegation urged civil society and the international community to take immediate notice to prevent further suffering, saying that such injustice will only deepen the humanitarian catastrophe.

Naqvi praises security forces for crushing India-backed terror network

ISLAMABAD (INP). Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has lauded Pakistan's security forces for their successful operations against terrorists linked to "Fitna al-Hindustani" in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), commending their bravery and professionalism. In a statement issued on Thursday, Naqvi highlighted the elimination of 19 Kharji (outlawed) terrorists during the operations, calling it a testament to the forces' operational excellence. "Pakistan's brave security forces have foiled the nefarious designs of India's proxy."

Fitna al-Khawarij, the minister said, adding that "the nation is proud of its courageous security forces." He noted that the operations had achieved significant milestones in dismantling terror networks operating in the region. "The people of Pakistan stand firmly with the security forces," Naqvi said, emphasizing that the nation views these victories with great admiration. Reaffirming the government's resolve, Naqvi stated, "With the support of the people, we will, God willing, eliminate India-sponsored terrorism from our soil."

strengthening of democracy. He urged all stakeholders to work collectively for the province's progress, prosperity, and peace, stressing that unity was vital for safeguarding provincial autonomy and addressing public issues. The Governor also appreciated the Deputy Speaker, current and former legislators, the Law Department, and Assembly Secretariat staff for their significant role in this historic achievement.

POSITION VACANT				
The Government of Balochistan, Health Department invites applications from dynamic and self-motivated individuals for the post of Project Director (Civil Works) for Establishment of Medical College, Nasirabad purely on contract basis initially for a period of one (1) year extendable subject to satisfactory performance. The details are mentioned below:-				
S#	Position	Qualification & Experience	No. of Posts	Salary Package (PKR)
01	Project Director (Civil Works)	Minimum sixteen (16) years education with specialization in relevant fields. Relevant qualification may include B.E. (Honours) in Engineering and/or Master in Economics, Business Administration (MBA/MPA), Project Management (PMP), Public Health (PHD), Public Policy (PPH) and other relevant fields from HEC recognized institutions, depending upon the nature and requirement of the project. Candidates with professional certification may be given additional preference.	01	The lump sum salary package will be as per administrative order, to be approved by the Government of Balochistan for employees of PSP projects.
Experience: Minimum 10 years of professional experience in Project Management or relevant fields. Must have intermediate or above knowledge of project management fundamentals, particularly the government of Pakistan's project planning & management processes and procedures. Previous work experience in Balochistan will be an added advantage.				
The above positions are offered purely on contract basis initially for one year. ii) The Age of the candidate will be calculated on the last date of submission of application. iii) The candidates having Local Quota of Balochistan shall only be eligible to apply. iv) No TAC will be administered for the interview. v) The department has the right to accept/reject or cancel an application or whole recruitment process at any time without any notice/satisfaction. vi) Candidate already working in Government/Semi Government/Autonomous Bodies may apply through proper channel. vii) Incomplete applications or applications received after due date/submitting of office hours on the last date for submission of application will not be entertained. viii) In case of large number of candidates, the department reserves the right to decide upon any threshold marks/ratio of candidate v-a to be further considered in the recruitment process/interview. ix) Only short listed candidates shall be called for a final interview. x) Submission of false documents or concealment of any fact will lead to dis-qualification of the candidate. xi) Candidate shall produce all original documents, along with a set of attested photocopies of all relevant verifiable documents, at the final date of interview to be communicated. xii) Applications alongwith CV and attested copies of educational and experience certificates, QNC and three (3) recent photograph may reach his office on or before 25 September, 2025 on following address:- Planning Cell, Room No.2, 2 nd Floor, Block-II, Balochistan Civil Secretariat, Quetta or Email: healthplanning@balochistan.gov.pk				

PRQ No.1203/11-0-2025

Chief Planning Officer
Ph. Health Department

Musadik Malik discusses Pakistan's ongoing flood crisis with Canadian Chargé d'Affaires

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik met with Luke Mayers, Chargé d'Affaires of the Canadian High Commission, on Wednesday to discuss Pakistan's ongoing flood crisis and opportunities for enhanced bilateral cooperation in climate resilience and food security.

Expressing solidarity with Pakistan, Mayers conveyed Canada's empathy over the loss of lives and widespread destruction caused by recent

flooding. "Canada stands with the people of Pakistan in this difficult time," he said. Dr. Malik briefed the Canadian envoy on the scale of the disaster, noting that nearly 3.6 million people have been displaced.

He stressed that while relief operations were underway, the greater challenge would come once floodwaters recede, leaving behind large-scale devastation to communities and infrastructure.

The discussion also touched on the floods' impact

on food security, including the role of trade, food regulations, and the possible introduction of genetically modified (GMO) seeds to boost agricultural resilience. Highlighting future priorities, Dr. Malik said the Ministry was digitizing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to streamline processes and improve transparency in environmental monitoring.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in climate resilience, sustainable development, and food security.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Ahsan Iqbal, chairing the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) meeting.

CM Sindh slams those spreading rumours during monsoon

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Thursday warned that after the recent rains in Karachi, many "opportunists" have come out, spreading rumours. He said the entire country is affected by floods, pointing out mistakes is acceptable, but unnecessary criticism is not right.

Speaking to the media at Mazari-e-Quaid in Karachi, CM Shah said that Pakistan is the result of Qaid-e-Azam's struggle, and now it is our responsibility to adopt his principles of faith, unity, and sacrifice to make the country a true Islamic welfare state. He said that on this day, we also remember our great leaders Shahheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mohatma Benazir Bhutto, who played a historic role in the country's defence and nuclear programme.

He further stated that Pakistan's armed forces and the entire nation gave a strong response to India's recent aggression.

and, this unity is our real strength. The Sindh CM strongly condemned the Indian atrocities against the Kashmiri people and Israeli aggression, saying that Israel, which bombs innocent children and civilians, will surely be defeated through the unity of the Muslim world.

Speaking about the recent flood situation in the country, Shah said that Sindh and all other regions are affected. Our top priority is to save human lives and protect barrages and embankments. He appealed to the public, especially people in katcha (riverine) areas, to follow government instructions to prevent loss of life.

He said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has issued clear directions to provide immediate relief, impose agricultural and environmental emergencies, and launch a flash appeal for aid at the international level.

Responding to criticism over urban flooding in Karachi, the

Sindh CM said that the entire country is affected by floods; highlighting mistakes is fine, but baseless criticism is not. "After the rains, many seasonal frogs have emerged who are spreading false rumours," he warned, adding that such elements must not attempt to create ethnic or political divisions, as the nation has already paid a heavy price for that in the past. Shah said that the administration and elected representatives remained on the streets during the rains and floods, fulfilling their responsibilities. Shortcomings do exist, but work is being done on them. The spread of false rumours must stop.

The Sindh CM further said that they are fully prepared to deal with the flood situation, with the top priority being the protection of people. He made it clear that the Pakistan People's Party will support every water-related project that is non-controversial, and practical steps to resolve public issues will continue.

Dams overflow: four South Punjab cities under threat

MULTAN (INP): The flood torments from the Sutlej, Ravi, and Chenab rivers have placed the districts of Multan, Muzaffargarh, Lhianpur, and Rahim Yar Khan in severe danger.

According to the report, near Multan, the official protective embankment in Basti Baharan has broken, while a deliberate breach has

been made on the Uch Sharif Road to protect Uch Sharif city from inundation.

As a result of this breach, eastern localities including Mouza Jhanbi, Noorja Bhatta, Kotla, Bahadurpur, and Sabra have been

severely impacted. Although the flow of water remains steady at the Sher Shah embankment near Multan, the decision to break the Sher

Shah protective bund has been postponed, as the threat of a high flood in Jalpur Pirwala has now subsided.

At Head Panipad, water levels have risen again. Currently, a powerful flood wave carrying 607,000 cusecs is passing through the point.

Earlier, the flood that passed through the Alipur region devastated 70% of the teltail area. The next 24 hours have been declared

extremely critical for flood response and safety efforts.

In the suburbs of Qaboola, the Farid Shah area has been overwhelmed by flooding. Thousands of acres of crops have been destroyed, entire settlements have been swallowed by the river, and connecting roads have been severed, cutting off ground access to the area. Rescue operations are underway using boats to evacuate affected residents.

In the outskirts of Luddan, the Akbar Shah area has suffered extensive damage, with more than 2,000 homes submerged. Standing crops—cotton, rice, sesame, and maize—have been completely wiped out by floodwaters. Women and children are suffering from hunger and thirst due to food shortages.

At Arifwala on the Sutlej River, a high-level flood has caused significant devastation. Displaced residents, left homeless, have pitched tents on their own for shelter. Weakened by hunger, they await government assistance with growing desperation.

At the Guddu Barrage, water levels have crossed 500,000 cusecs. Villages along the riverbanks are now underwater. Locals are evacuating and relocating on their own, as formal

evacuation assistance remains limited.

According to the Meteorological Department, over the past 24 hours, water levels have risen significantly at both Mangla and Tarbela Dams. Both Tarbela and Rawal Dams have once again reached full capacity. At Tarbela, the water level has reached 1,550.00 feet—the dam's full storage capacity. Similarly, Rawal Dam now stands at 1,751.80 feet, just shy of its 1,752 feet limit.

Mangla Dam is currently 92% full, with a recorded water level of 1,234.60 feet, while its full capacity is 1,242 feet. The Khanpur Dam has reached a water level of 1,981.45 feet, just below its 1,982 feet capacity. Simly Dam is holding 2,315.25 feet of water, matching its full storage limit of 2,315 feet.

As a result of these water levels, spillways at various dams are now being opened to release excess water and prevent structural pressure or collapse.

In the Danga area of 77Kharan, two brothers, 14-year-old Zainar and 12-year-old Shah Zain, drowned in the nullah near Mohalla Shah Takiya. Zainar was rescued by locals while the search for Shah Zain's body continued till late at night. The search will resume today.



ISLAMABAD: NDMA conducted a monsoon appraisal briefing for delegation of Ambassadors of Foreign Countries at NEOC today.



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha, Qatar.

PM Shehbaz assures Qatari leadership of Pakistan's full solidarity, support against Israel.

DOHA (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday assured the Qatari leadership of Pakistan's full solidarity and support in the face of unjustified provocation by Israel.

The prime minister, during his meeting with the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the prime minister conveyed Pakistan's strongest condemnation of the Israeli attack on Doha on September 9, terming it a blatant and flagrant violation of Qatar's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He also conveyed deep sympathies on the loss of precious lives in this dastardly and heinous attack by Israel and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured.

PM Shehbaz Shari undertook an official visit to the State of Qatar to express solidarity with the people and the leadership of the State of Qatar in the wake of the

recent Israeli attack on Doha.

The prime minister said that the leadership and people of Pakistan were deeply disturbed by this attack against the brotherly State of Qatar, that constituted a serious breach of international law.

While reaffirming the historic, fraternal bonds between Pakistan and Qatar, the prime minister stated that the two countries had proudly stood with each other through thick and thin. It was in this spirit of brotherhood that Pakistan stood shoulder to shoulder with the Amir, the Royal Family of Qatar and with the brotherly people of Qatar during this challenging time.

He assured the Qatari leadership of Pakistan's full solidarity and support in the face of this unjustified provocation. He also conveyed deep sympathies on the loss of precious lives in this dastardly and heinous attack by

Israel and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured.

The prime minister emphasized that Israel's brazen aggression in the Middle East must be stopped and the Ummah needed unity among its ranks in the face of Israeli provocations.

The prime minister appreciated Qatar's responsible, constructive and mediatory role in efforts to bring peace in Gaza, and stressed that such acts of Israeli aggression were clearly meant to undermine regional stability and threaten ongoing diplomatic and humanitarian efforts.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said that at Qatar's request, Pakistan had requested for an emergency session of the UN Security Council to discuss the recent developments in the Middle East.

He also welcomed Qatar's decision to host an Extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit on September 15.

Banks manage to grow their asset base by 11.0pc in H1CY25

KARACHI (INP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued the Mid-Year Performance Review (The Review) of the Banking Sector for 2025 on Wednesday.

The Review covers the performance and soundness of the banking sector for the period from January to June 2025 (H1CY25). It also briefly discusses the performance of financial markets as well as the results of the Systemic Risk Survey (SRS), which represents the views of independent experts about key current and potential future risks to financial stability. The Review highlights that banks managed to grow their asset base by 11.0 percent in H1CY25. Investments in government securities primarily supported asset growth, reflecting government's needs from the banking sector.

Advances observed contraction across both public and private sectors. Nonetheless, fixed investment advances to SMEs continued to grow. On the funding side, deposits grew at an impressive pace of 17.7 percent,

leading to a decline in banks' reliance on borrowings.

The Review notes that the credit risk of the banking sector remained contained. Non-performing loans of the sector declined during the period under review, however, due to contraction in advances, the gross NPLs to loans ratio marginally deteriorated to 7.4 percent in June 2025. Nonetheless, as the banks hold higher stock of provisions for loan losses, the net NPLs to net Loans ratio clocked at negative 0.5 percent, reflecting muted risks on net basis.

The earnings of the sector remained steady — backed by rising volumes of earning assets. Accordingly, the Return on Asset (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) remained steady at 1.3 percent (1.3 percent in December 2024) and 21.3 percent (21.5 percent in December 2024), respectively. The solvency position of the banking sector also remained strong as the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) improved to 21.4 percent (20.6 percent in December 2024) and was well above the minimum regulatory requirement.

The latest stress test results reveal that CAR of the banking sector is expected to remain comfortably above the minimum regulatory requirement of 11.5 percent under both baseline as well as hypothetically severely stressed macro-financial scenarios over the two-year forecast horizon. Results also indicate strong resilience of banks to withstand hypothetical shocks to credit and market risk factors. The Review shows that financial markets exhibited a relatively higher volatility in H1CY25 as compared to H2CY24, mainly stemming from the equity market owing to short-lived impact of trade tariffs uncertainty and geopolitical tensions.

The independent respondents in the latest wave of the Systemic Risk Survey highlighted geopolitical risk as the topmost risk, however they expressed confidence in the stability of the financial system and the ability of the regulator to manage any unforeseen shocks.



ISLAMABAD: CEO Milat Tractors called on Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan to discuss Tractor Policy.

Pakistan, UAE agree to boost anti-narcotics cooperation in high-level talks

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Sheikh Zayed bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Chairman of the United Arab Emirates' National Anti-Narcotics Authority, at the Ministry of Interior on Thursday to discuss enhanced cooperation against drug trafficking.

Minister Naqvi warmly welcomed Sheikh Zayed and his delegation, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to combating narcotics as a national priority. Both sides held detailed discussions on anti-narcotics efforts and other matters of mutual interest, agreeing to expand bilateral collaboration in countering drug smuggling.

To facilitate closer coordination, Pakistan appointed DG Anti-Narcotics Force Major General Abdul Mueed as its focal person,

while the UAE named Brigadier Taher Gharib as its special representative. Naqvi congratulated Sheikh Zayed on becoming the first chairman of the UAE's newly established National Anti-Narcotics Authority and praised the move as a step toward deeper regional cooperation.

"The establishment of this authority will significantly boost joint efforts between Pakistan and the UAE in combating narcotics," Naqvi said, assuring Sheikh Zayed of Pakistan's full support. He highlighted Pakistan's frontline role in the fight against drugs, noting that over 400 suspects involved in trafficking to the UAE had been arrested and five tons of narcotics seized.

Naqvi credited these successes to joint efforts and timely information sharing, while warn-

ing of an uptick in synthetic drug smuggling. "This is a war for the future of our generations, and defeat is not an option," he emphasized.

Sheikh Zayed affirmed the UAE's commitment to providing all possible cooperation to Pakistan in anti-narcotics operations, stressing the importance of strengthening bilateral collaboration to ensure a safer future for coming generations.

The UAE delegation included senior anti-narcotics officials from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Fujairah, and Umm Al Quwain. Pakistani officials present included Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, the Federal Interior Secretary, Special and Additional Secretaries, DG Anti-Narcotics Force, and other senior representatives.