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Afghan footprint deepens in Pakistan TTP attacks

Balochistan Government Suspends Controversial Mines and Minerals Act 2025



Syed Ali Shah, News Desk:

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has suspended the implementation of the recently passed Mines and Minerals Act 2025 through an executive order, following widespread criticism and political opposition. The announcement was made by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti while addressing reporters outside the Balochistan Assembly, accompanied by parliamentary leaders from both treasury and opposition benches.

CM Bugti stated

that although the Act had been adopted by the provincial assembly on March 12, 2025, concerns raised by multiple political parties inside and outside the house could not be ignored. Since there are serious reservations from across the political spectrum, the government has decided to suspend implementation of the Mines and Minerals Act through an executive order," he said.

The chief minister further announced that a parliamentary committee comprising lawmakers from both the treasury

and opposition will be formed to review the Act and propose amendments. "The revised law will be drafted in line with the aspirations and demands of the people of Balochistan," Bugti assured.

On the occasion, senior official Aziza also welcomed the decision, describing it as a positive step for the people of the province. He noted that opposition parties and civil society groups had consistently expressed apprehensions about the Act, calling it a violation of fundamental rights. "By

suspending the Act and agreeing to amendments, the government has shown flexibility and commitment to public interest," Aziza added.

It may be recalled that the Mines and Minerals Act 2025 sparked uproar soon after its passage, with critics arguing that it would undermine provincial autonomy and compromise the rights of local communities over natural resources. The upcoming parliamentary committee's recommendations are expected to shape a new and amended version of the law.

Balochistan Govt Revokes Old Levies Notifications, Implements Levies Amendment Act 2025



Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has officially withdrawn all previous notifications related to the merger of the Levies Force that were issued under the

Levies Act 2010.

According to the Home Department, the provincial assembly has now passed the Levies Amendment Act 2025, under which all matters concerning the Levies

Force will be regulated. Fresh notifications are being issued to fulfill legal requirements and to provide clarity regarding the new framework. The Home Department emphasized that

this updated legal structure is designed to strengthen institutional performance, enhance public service delivery, and bring the Levies system fully in line with the latest legislation.

Afghan footprint deepens in Pakistan TTP attacks

NEWS DESK: Pakistani authorities have determined that a striking 70 per cent of terrorists involved in recent attacks carried out by the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were Afghan nationals, a steep rise from the 57/10 percent recorded in earlier years, sources told The Express Tribune on Monday.

The startling revelation was made by Pakistan's special representative on Afghanistan Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq at a recent closed-door meeting of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) on Afghanistan held in Dushanbe, according to the sources familiar with the development.

The disclosure led the Iranian representative to share his perspective, revealing that his country, too, was facing the similar problem. The Iranian representative, according to the sources, cited an attack on Chabahar port where out of 18 attackers, 16 were Afghan nationals.

The increased involvement of Afghan nationals in terrorist attacks has set alarm bells ringing in Islamabad, where officials now see



the growing Afghan footprint in the cross-border terrorism as a new and dangerous trend.

According to the sources, the increase percentage underscores the Taliban government's failure or unwillingness to curb the use of Afghan soil by the TTP against Pakistan. Officials fear that the development could further strain the already uneasy ties between Islamabad

and Kabul.

Pakistan has long accused the Afghan Taliban of providing sanctuary to the TTP leaders and fighters, who regrouped across the border after Pakistan's military operations in the former tribal areas. While the Taliban have publicly denied giving the group a free hand, Islamabad insists that the TTP safe havens in Afghanistan remain intact.

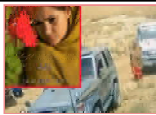
Tensions worsened in recent weeks after a string of deadly attacks in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, which Pakistan directly linked to militants operating from Afghanistan.

Diplomatic outreach

In a sign of growing concern, Pakistan is now stepping up diplomatic engagement with regional stakeholders to mount pressure on the Taliban regime. Sources confirmed that Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq, Pakistan's Special Envoy on Afghanistan, will soon travel to Tehran and Moscow to discuss the matter.

The outreach reflects Islamabad's strategy of seeking broader regional consensus to push the Taliban into acting decisively against the TTP. Both Iran and Russia, like Pakistan, remain wary of extremist groups exploiting Afghanistan's fragile security landscape.

For Pakistan, the rising involvement of Afghan nationals in TTP attacks is a troubling escalation that not only complicates border security but also raises questions about Kabul's commitments. Officials believe that unless the Taliban take tangible steps, the trend could spiral into a major flashpoint in bilateral relations.



Quetta: Blast Targets Jaffar Express, Several Injured in Balochistan

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NEWS DESK: QUETTA - A powerful explosion struck a railway track in the Dasht area of Mastung district Tuesday, targeting the Jaffar Express passenger train traveling from Peshawar to Quetta.

According to initial reports from Pakistan Railways and police officials, an improvised explosive device (IED) had been planted near the track. The blast left at least a dozen passengers injured, including women and children.

Rescue teams and law enforcement agencies rushed to the site immediately after the incident.

Video footage circulating on social media showed rescue workers assisting the wounded as security personnel cordoned off the area. Four bogies of the train were reportedly overturned due to the impact of

the explosion. The injured passengers were quickly shifted to hospitals in Quetta, where an emergency was declared to ensure timely medical treatment. Hospital authorities confirmed that the con-

dition of some victims remains critical, while others are receiving necessary care. Railway sources confirmed that the blast caused significant damage to the track and disrupted train

PM Shehbaz attends UNGA session to draw world attention towards Gaza, Kashmir

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is leading Pakistan's delegation at a high-level segment of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) from today, drawing the attention of the international community towards the "grave crisis" in Gaza and calling for "decisive action" to end the suffering of Palestinians, according to a statement by the government.

World leaders gather in New York every September for several days of speeches at the annual UNGA session.

The prime minister attended the opening of the general debate of the UNGA's 80th session with Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Information Minister Attaulah Tarar are also accompanying the premier.

In his address to the General Assembly this year, PM Shehbaz will urge the international community to resolve the situations of prolonged occupation and denial of the right to self-determination in India-occupied Kashmir and Palestine, the government statement posted on X said. It added that the PM will also high-

light Pakistan's perspective on the regional security situation, as well as other issues of international concern, including climate change, terrorism, Islamophobia, and sustainable development.

PM Shehbaz's participation in this biggest annual gathering of global leaders will showcase Pakistan's strong commitment to multilateralism and the United Nations and to highlight Pakistan's

longstanding contribution towards the shared objectives of peace and development," the statement read.

The prime minister, who reached New York late Monday night after departing from London.

On the sidelines of the UNGA session, he will hold meetings with Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid, World Bank President Ajay Banga and International Monetary Fund

Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

According to the government statement, the PM will exchange views on issues of mutual interest during his bilateral meetings with world leaders and senior UN officials.

"He will also underline Pakistan's resolve to work with all UN Member States to uphold the UN Charter, prevent conflict, foster peace and promote global prosperity in Pakistan's



United to Build a Brighter Future of Global Development" and a special high-level event on climate action, the government statement said.

Trump's meeting with Arab, Muslim leaders

In New York, PM Shehbaz will also attend a special summit of Arab

and Muslim countries, co-hosted by the United States and Qatar, in which US President Donald Trump will also participate.

The prime minister has been specially invited to participate in the summit.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters on

current role as a member of the Security Council.

Moreover, he will attend several high-level events, including important meetings of the UN Security Council, a high-level meeting of the Global Development Initiative on the theme "Recommit to our Original Aspirations."

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Reko Diq Copper-Gold Project: A Chance to Empower Local Talent



Editorial: The Reko Diq copper and gold project in Balochistan is more than just a mining venture—it is a national opportunity to empower local communities, boost Pakistan's economy, and ensure long-term regional development. Company officials recently briefed the media in Quetta and shared that production at Reko Diq is expected to begin by 2028. In the lead-up to this, around 7,500-8,000 temporary jobs will be created during the construction phase, while 4,500 permanent positions will be maintained once the mine becomes operational. In total, over 25,000 indirect job opportunities are expected to arise through supply chains, vendors, and local contractors.

While these numbers are promising, the true success of Reko Diq depends on how deeply local talent is integrated into the project. Officials highlighted a positive initiative—Balochistan-based engineers recently received international mining training through Barrick Gold's development program. These trained professionals have now returned to serve in the project. This initiative must be expanded. There is a vast pool of youth in Reko Diq, Chagai, and surrounding districts with potential. With the right technical education and training—both locally and abroad—this local workforce can be transformed into the backbone of Pakistan's mineral economy.

The government and company must jointly ensure that investment in education, healthcare, and connectivity becomes part of the project's long-term goals. Training centers, scholarships, and technical institutes should be prioritized in Balochistan. Reko Diq is a national asset, but its real value will only be realized when the people of Balochistan are treated as equal stakeholders—not just as workers, but as partners in progress.

Heatwave Threatens Lives and Crops in Balochistan

By Ghalib Nehad As temperatures soar across Pakistan, several districts of Balochistan are bracing for an intense heatwave. According to the Balochistan Meteorological Department, Sibi is expected to record temperatures as high as 47°C in the coming days. Turbat

may reach 46°C, Lasbela 44°C, Nokundi 43°C, Dalbandin 41°C, and Quetta could experience highs of up to 35°C. Balochistan travel guide Quetta city guide The Met Office has issued heatwave alerts for Sibi, Kachhi, Sohatpur, Lehri, Naseerabad, Magsi, Turbat,

Lasbela, Washuk, Kharan, and Chaghi, warning of dry and extreme weather conditions. The heat is not only endangering human health but also threatening agricultural productivity. Khalid Hussain Bhat, Chairman of the Farmers' Union, emphasized that extreme heat

severely impacts seed survival and crop growth. He noted that wheat yields, which traditionally ranged from 50-60 maunds per acre, have dropped significantly to 20-25 maunds due to milder winters and erratic climate patterns.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mahmood Ahmed warned that rising temperatures could lead to an increase in heat-related illnesses. He advised citizens to stay hydrated, avoid sun exposure between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., and wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. Reducing meat consumption and eating more fruits and vegetables can also help mitigate heat-related risks.

Dr. Ahmed stressed the importance of early action to prevent heatstroke, outlining symptoms such as excessive sweating, fatigue, dizziness, nausea, rapid heartbeat, and in severe cases, unconsciousness. He urged both public awareness and government support to manage the growing threat effectively.



Starting a Small Business in Balochistan: Funding & Growth Tips

Starting a small business in Balochistan is one of the most promising ways to generate income, create jobs, and uplift the local economy. With government-backed business loans, startup grants, and low-cost business ideas, Balochistan offers untapped opportunities for entrepreneurs. This guide explains step-by-step how to register, fund, and grow your business in the region.

Why Start a Small Business in Balochistan? Balochistan has emerging markets, low competition, and a rising demand for basic and digital services. Entrepreneurs can benefit from:

- Low initial investment requirements
- Government incentives and grants for startups
- High demand for localized services and products
- Tax relief and SME support schemes
- Balochistan travel guide

Step-by-Step Guide to Launching a Business in Balochistan

1. Choose a High-Profit Business Idea
 - Select a profitable business in Balochistan based on local market needs. Top ideas with high CPC potential:
 - Solar energy installation business
 - Organic farming or livestock trading
 - Handicrafts export via e-commerce
 - Freight, delivery, and logistics services
 - Freelance digital services (graphic design, SEO, content writing)
 - Balochistan travel guide

These are low-risk and high-demand ventures suitable for the region.

2. Register Your Business Legally

To apply for business loans and government grants, you need to legalize your startup.

Register with SECP or local Chamber of Commerce Apply for an

NTN (National Tax Number) via FBR Set up a business bank account Ensure compliance with local business laws Tip: Use the SECP eServices Portal for quick online registration.

3. Apply for Small Business Grants in Pakistan (2025 Update) Looking for free money to start a business in Balochistan? These grant programs can help.

SMEDA Small Business Grants

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) offers:

Capacity-building programs

Matching grants for business improvement

Free feasibility studies and training

Visit : www.smeda.org

Kamryab Jawan Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES Loan 2025)

Loans up to PKR 5 million

No interest (Tier-1) for Balochistan youth and women

Apply now: yes.kamryabjawan.gov.pk

4. Access Small Business Loans in Balochistan

Trade shows and local SME expos

Microfinance

Interest-free loans (Qarz-e-Hasna)

Targeted at low-income and women entrepreneurs

National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) - SME Finance

Loan range: PKR 100,000 - 5 million

Grace period and flexible repayment terms

For registered startups in rural and urban areas

Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP)

Community-led loan schemes

Enterprise development training

Ideal for agri-businesses and home-based work

3. Reinvest Profits

Wisely

Buy inventory in bulk

Invest in customer service and staff training

Explore B2B sales within Pakistan and abroad

Most Searched Questions (FAQs)

Can I get a government grant to start a business in Balochistan?

Yes. Programs like SMEDA and Kamryab

Jawan offer grants and interest-free loans to qualified individuals, especially youth and women entrepreneurs.

What is the easiest business to start in Quetta?

The security situation is highly volatile, there is never a day passes without peace. Each day

Minister, who has the understanding of the complexity of the problem and also has a resolve to fix it, is a ray of hope for the peace-loving people of Balochistan. The approach of the Chief Minister towards engaging with the people with remorse and dressing their wounds is evident. He opens himself up to the public and trying to reach out to as many people as possible. His constant efforts to engage with the public and working out on solution for restoring peace in the province are quite serious.

Youth Disillusionment And The Rise Of Militancy

Nonetheless, the peace in the province

tion gradually shaped into militancy and freedom struggle among the educated youth. Neither any of the Provincial nor Federal Government has taken this issue seriously. Continued meddling of establishment in forming and deforming Governments and disfranchising the people of their right to choose their government has put fuel to fire.

A Call For Political Engagement And Holistic Solutions

There is a need to limit the use of guns and force by improving Governance and working out a political engagement with the people who are unarmed. The armed ones need to be isolated by inviting dialogue unconditionally with those, who furthering their agenda politically and through peaceful struggle. The things will improve not by unleashing force but by engaging political thinkers and workers and with an unending conviction, because it would not be an easy and quick solution but knocking the door incessantly will end up with an open door.

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Court extends Gogi Butt's bail in Balaj murder case

LAHORE (INP): An additional court judge on Tuesday extended the interim bail of accused Gogi Butt in the Amir Balaj Tipu murder case till September 29.

Gogi Butt was also present in the court of Judge Syed Najaf Haider Kazmi, who heard the case in Lahore.

During the proceedings, Advocate KP Rai, who represented Gogi Butt in court, stated that the investigation officer (IO) had filed a petition without collecting evidence from him, and the court had issued notices on this issue for September 4.

He also stated that lawyers are observing a strike today. Later, the court extended the interim bail of Gogi Butt in the case.

After the extension of bail, Gogi Butt immediately left the court amid tight security.

Earlier in February 2024, underworld don Amir Balaj Tipu, was shot dead by assailants during a wedding ceremony in Chung area of Lahore.

Balaj Tipu was the son of Arif Amir, alias Tipu Trukhanwala, who was also murdered in 2010 at the Allama Iqbal Airport. Balaj's grandfather had also fallen victim to an old feud.

Kashmiri women deliberate targets of Indian state terror: Dr Shuguffa

GENEVA, Sept 23 (INP): Kashmiri woman representative Dr Shuguffa Ashraf has said that Kashmiri women continue to suffer systematic rights violations under Indian occupation, with sexual violence being used as a weapon of war in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at an international NGO forum on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Women, organized by OCAPROCE International on the sidelines of the UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva, Dr Shuguffa said Kashmiri women "carry the pain of countless silenced women whose cries are drowned by the thunder of gunfire." She maintained that Kashmiri women were being "deliberately targeted as part of war strategy," and stressed that sexual violence had been deployed "systematically as an instrument of domination" by Indian forces in the territory.

Despite immense hardships, she said, Kashmiri women have preserved their cultural identity "through lullabies whispered under curfews, embroidery stitched in silence, and stories told in secret gatherings."

Dr Shuguffa urged the international community to take immediate action, demanding an end to the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, accountability of perpetrators under international law, and restoration of the Kashmiri's right to self-determination.

On behalf of Gomal University, the MoU was signed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal and Director Professor Riaz Ahmed Bittani, while on behalf of China, it was signed by Three Gorges University President Deng Xidong and Director Liu Fangyuan.

Earlier this week, the event had seen simulta-

Khan appears on WhatsApp video link in ATC; lawyers boycott hearing

RAWALPINDI (INP): The hearing of the May 9 CHQ attack case before the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi on Tuesday turned chaotic when Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan was presented before the court through a WhatsApp video link.

According to media reports, the defence lawyers for Imran Khan requested permission to communicate with their client, which the court granted.

However, as they attempted to speak with Imran Khan, the sound repeatedly dropped, and his image appeared unclear on screen.

Frustrated by the poor quality of the vir-

tual proceedings, the defence team boycotted the hearing. Prominent lawyers Salman Akram Raja and Faisal Malik walked out of the courtroom in protest.

This is not the first time the high-profile case has witnessed such drama. At the last hearing on September 19, 2025, Imran Khan himself boycotted the proceedings when produced via video link from Adiala Jail. His walk-out prompted PTI lawyers to stage a protest exit as well.

The case is being heard by Judge Amjad Ali Shah of the special anti-terrorism court. During the September 19 proceedings, the court allowed Imran Khan to speak with his lawyers.

However, he refrained from engaging in legal arguments and instead made political remarks.

That day, two IT officers from the Joint Investigation Team (JIT), Manzoor Shahzad and Inspector Saleem Qureshi, recorded their statements.

Inspector Qureshi told the court that he had downloaded 40 video clips related to Imran Khan and submitted them to the JIT.

Judge Amjad Ali Shah also rejected a defence application seeking Imran Khan's physical production in court, ruling that under the Punjab government's notification, he would only appear via video link.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Mchullah Badini is briefing the media on the occasion of Khuli Kachari.

Over 50 villages flooded in Dadu as River Indus bursts its banks

DADU (INP): The River Indus, which is in high flood at Mehr in Dadu, has inundated over 50 villages, causing a colossal loss to the people by flooding homes, shops and destroying crops.

Meanwhile, several villages situated in the katcha area of Sujawal have been submerged, forcing the locals to take shelter at safe places.

The River Indus was in medium flood at Kori Barrage as 364,000 acres of water was heading towards the Indus Delta till last reports came in.

On the other hand, people displaced by floods in Sujawal have appealed to the Sindh government to provide them with ration and other items.

Crops grown over hundreds of acres of land in a 10-feet-wide breach developed in Jinjur Shams canal in Taranda Muhammad Panah in Bahawalpur. And despite the fact that the authorities were informed of the situation, nobody came to help the breach.

Residents of the area have requested the deputy commissioner to take notice of their plight. On the other hand, the suburban areas of Taranda Muhammad Panah still lie submerged.

The road, connecting Basti Noor Wala, Ghattoorabad, Hayat Machi and other towns, has been under water for the last 15 days, making it difficult for the locals to return to their homes.

They have said that since nobody from the administration has helped them, they are returning to their homes on their own.

They have also appealed to the Sindh government to build a flyover on the road, which is presently under water.

Just like in other parts of southern Punjab and Sindh, floods have also wrecked the lives in Lakiyapur near Rahim Yar Khan as people have been deprived of their homes, crops and all their belongings.

On the other hand, people in Alipur, where levels in the River Indus at Guddu and Sukkur Barrages have dropped and the river is in low flood at both these places. The water flow at Guddu Barrage has been recorded at 260,000 cusecs, while 261,000 cusecs at Sukkur Barrage.

Gomal University signs MoU with China's Hubei Three Gorges Polytechnic

ISLAMABAD (INP): Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan and China's Hubei Three Gorges Polytechnic have signed here a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in research, faculty exchange, and skills development.

On behalf of Gomal University, the MoU was signed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal and Director Professor Riaz Ahmed Bittani, while on behalf of China, it was signed by Three Gorges University President Deng Xidong and Director Liu Fangyuan.

Earlier this week, the event had seen simulta-

neously in Beijing, Hubei, Islamabad, and Gomal University, Gwadar Port reported.

Founded in 1974 under the vision of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Gomal University is a leading public research institution in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

It has three campuses, nine faculties, 48 departments, and is affiliated with 110 colleges.

Speaking to Gwadar Pro, Riaz Ahmed Bittani said the deal would "open new avenues for our students in international education, ad-

vanced technical training, and respectable employment opportunities at home and abroad."

He added that the MoU will give Gomal students access to cutting-edge laboratories, joint degree programs, paid internships, AI and ICT training, and international research collaborations.

"We have prioritized technology transfer, skills development, and practical learning over mere financial assistance," he noted.

According to Bittani, the partnership would also promote agricultural modernization, organic food processing.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani is talking to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti in a session of the provincial assembly.

China reports historic achievements in women's development in new era

BEIJING (INP): China has made historic strides in promoting gender equality and ensuring the all-round development of women, with officials highlighting the progress as a defining feature of the country's modernization in the new era.

A white paper released by the State Council Information Office outlines the philosophy, principles, and policies that have transformed the status of Chinese women and reinforced the country's global role in advancing gender equality.

The report credited the Communist Party of China (CPC) and President Xi Jinping's leadership for placing women's empowerment at the heart of national rejuvenation.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, gender equality has been integrated into the "Two Centenary Goals"—building a moderately prosperous society and realizing national rejuvenation.

Officials said this vision has created opportunities unprecedented in China's history for women to realize their potential and contribute to national progress.

Chinese women have made remarkable gains in education, with female students now accounting for more than half of all university enrolments nationwide.

This achievement has translated into stronger representation in the workforce, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, where women are playing an increasingly visible role.

Employment opportunities for women have also expanded in tandem with the country's modernization, particularly in emerging sectors driven by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

From digital technologies to advanced manufacturing, women are now contributing significantly to industries that will shape China's future.

China has reinforced its legal and institutional framework to protect women's rights.

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Trump to meet Shehbaz, Muslim countries' leaders to discuss Gaza

Gaza will be discussed. Axios reported Trump will present the group with a proposal for peace and post-war governance in Gaza. In addition to freeing hostages and ending the war, Trump is expected to discuss US plans around an Israeli withdrawal and post-war governance in Gaza, without Hamas involvement, according to Axios.

Washington wants Arab and Muslim countries to agree to send military forces to Gaza to enable Israel's withdrawal and to secure funding for transition and rebuilding programs, Axios reported.

Trump will address the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, a day after dozens of world leaders gathered at the United Nations to embrace a Palestinian state, a landmark diplomatic shift nearly two years into the Gaza war that faces fierce resistance from Israel and the United States.

The nations said a two-state solution was the only way to achieve peace, but Israel said the recognition of a Palestinian state was a reward to extremism.

Israel's assault on Gaza since October 2023 has killed tens of thousands, internally displaced Gaza's entire population, and set off a starvation crisis. Multiple rights experts, scholars and a UN inquiry assessed it amounts to genocide.

Israel calls its actions self-defense after an October 2023 attack by Palestinian Hamas militants that killed 1,200 people and in which more than 250 were taken hostage. Israel has also bombed Iran, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and Qatar during the course of its war in Gaza.

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Provincial govt will hold talks with Afghan authorities: Gandapur

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has said that a positive message has been received from Afghanistan, and the provincial government will hold talks with Afghan authorities.

Speaking to the media in Peshawar, Gandapur criticized the prevailing lawlessness in the country, terming the cases against him as baseless. He

asserted that his party would not step back from its mission of freedom and would prove through public gatherings that the entire nation stands with the PTI founder. He urged state institutions to function within the framework of the Constitution, adding that they are fighting for the people's real cause. Commenting on Afghanistan, the KP chief minister said the Afghan govern-

ment wants the issue resolved, and not step back from its mission of freedom and would prove through public gatherings that the entire nation stands with the PTI founder. He urged state institutions to function within the framework of the Constitution, adding that they are fighting for the people's real cause. Commenting on Afghanistan, the KP chief minister said the Afghan govern-



QUETTA: Pakistan Flour Mills Association Chairman Badaruddin Kakar addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club (INP).

Mian Amer again underscores need for making new provinces in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Punjab Group Chairman Mian Amer Mahmood on Tuesday held an interactive session with senior journalists in Islamabad, where he underscored the need for making new provinces in Pakistan.

The Punjab Group chairman started his talk by stressing that the new provinces should be formed to ensure fair distribution of resources, equal rights, and effective governance, warning that mismanagement and unequal access to resources hinder national progress.

Around the world, smaller provinces have contributed to development, he said, while in Pakistan, after the 18th Amendment, powers and funds were transferred to the provinces. However, despite having resources, facilities are not reaching the grassroots level.

He noted that sectors like education and health in Pakistan are in a state of decline. Pakistan ranks 140th out of 170 on the Public Welfare Index, and 168th out of 193 on the Human Development Index.

The chairman of Punjab Group stated that people in Pakistan are dying of hunger not only during floods but otherwise as well. He pointed out that child growth stands at only 44 percent, which shows that the nation's future has already been compromised for the next 20 years.

He further highlighted that

25 million children are out of school, the highest number in the world, adding that despite having a larger population, India has fewer out-of-school children compared to Pakistan.

Mahmood criticised the lack of balanced development, saying that except for the capital city, no other region has been properly developed.

"We have only built five major cities. We are not blaming individuals, but the system itself. Surely, good people must have come in 78 years, but real development has not taken place in the country," he said.

Mahmood said that the country lacks the rule of law, and since justice is not delivered, criminals never face punishment. "Perhaps power-sharing is not in our genes. If every division is made a province, we would have 33 provinces, and solving problems would become much easier," he stated.

Mahmood explained that when people say Punjab or Sindh, they never agree, they forget that Punjab is not just a set of four walls but home to 130 million people. He added that in the past 78 years, local governments were formed and dissolved repeatedly, yet no experiment succeeded.

He remarked that Pakistan suffers from a leadership vacuum because leaders do not emerge from within the system. "Every party is controlled by one family," he said.

region, and development across the country. Their foresight and wisdom, he said, have guided the Kingdom toward rapid progress.

Highlighting Saudi Arabia's economic growth, technological advancements, and global outreach, he observed that the Kingdom continues to inspire the world through its balanced approach of modernity and tradition. The Chairman noted that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy a special relationship rooted in mutual respect, trust, and co-operation, which has grown stronger with every passing decade.

He said the youth of Pakistan deeply admire Saudi Arabia's development journey and look forward to greater opportunities for educational, scientific, and cultural collaboration with their Saudi counterparts. Rana Mashhood also

We say make 33 provinces, and leadership will emerge from the people themselves. We don't have organic leadership," he said.

The Punjab Group chairman added that even if a small government is formed, people will still come forward to govern. "Maybe the people are not that bad—it is the system that doesn't exist for them to work in. Even if prime ministers and chief ministers work day and night, an audit after one year would reveal many flaws," he noted.

Mahmood emphasised that no country in the world has provinces as large as Pakistan's. "India once had 9 provinces; today it has 37. There is constant competition among Indian states. In Pakistan, our provinces don't even generate proper GDP. In these 80 years, at least some leader should have worked on this," he said.

He clarified that the discussion is not with politicians but with the people. "In India, every five years, through constitutional amendments, one or two new provinces are created. We too can amend our Constitution in this way."

We may not have the authority to govern, but we do have the right to raise awareness among the public. Political parties cannot stay detached from the people—we say such a demand should come from the public itself," he concluded.

Rana Mashhood extends National day greetings to Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, has extended warm congratulations to the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of their National Day, celebrated on September 23.

He stated that Saudi Arabia's National Day is a symbol of unity, progress, and national pride, and it also reflects the deep-rooted bonds of brotherhood and friendship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Rana Mashhood said that the day celebrates Saudi Arabia's historic achievements and modern transformation. He praised the Kingdom for establishing itself as a modern state with global influence, under wise and visionary leadership.

He emphasized that Saudi leadership has played a pivotal role in ensuring peace, stability,

and development across the region. Their foresight and wisdom, he said, have guided the Kingdom toward rapid progress.

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He said the youth of Pakistan deeply admire Saudi Arabia's development journey and look forward to greater opportunities for educational, scientific, and cultural collaboration with their Saudi counterparts. Rana Mashhood also

stressed the spiritual significance of Saudi Arabia, home to the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah, which remain the spiritual heart of the Muslim world.

He affirmed that Saudi Arabia's leadership continues to serve as a beacon of unity, faith, and heritage for the entire Islamic world.

Praising the Kingdom's ability to maintain traditions while embracing modernization, he called Saudi Arabia a remarkable and inspiring model for other nations. He said the National Day is not only a celebration of past achievements but also a promise of a brighter future for the Kingdom and its people.

On behalf of the youth of Pakistan, Rana Mashhood extended heartfelt prayers and best wishes for Saudi Arabia's prosperity and continued success.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environment, Dr. Musadiq Malik, meeting with UN Resident Coordinator Mohamed Yahya in federal capital.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan hosted Ambassadors of 07 ASEAN member states at the Ministry of Commerce.

Gwadar starts receiving 2 MGD water from Shadi Kaur Dam

GWADAR (INP): The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has started supplying water from Shadi Kor Dam to the city's main transmission line, adding two million gallons per day (MGD) to the system after nearly three and a half years, officials said.

The 83-kilometre-long pipeline was reactivated on the directive of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, following day-and-night effort by GDA's water division under the supervision of Director General Moin-ur-Rehman Khan, according to Gwadar Pth Chief Engineer Hajji Syed Muhammad, Project Director Water Mir Jan Baloch and Site Engineer Kamran inspected the transmission facility.

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Since then, GDA has accelerated installation of new household connections, urging residents to promptly submit applications. Gwadar has been facing an acute water crisis for more than a year and a half due to prolonged drought. Ankara Dam dried up four months ago, while Sawad Dam is on the verge of depletion. "One of the main dams has completely dried up, while the other is close to running out," said GDA Director General Moin-ur-Rehman Khan.

To diversify supply, work is progressing on a 1.2 MGD desalination plant and a 0.5 MGD sensor boring project.

These efforts complement the China-assisted 1.2 MGD desalination facility at the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), a flagship initiative under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is being pushed toward full capacity.

NA sub-committee reviews PHF leadership, orders immediate elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): A meeting of the National Assembly Sub-committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination, chaired by Sheikh Aftab, was held in Islamabad, attended by representatives from the Ministry of Law and the Attorney General's Office.

The committee reviewed the nomination of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Tariq Bugti, which was deemed valid by the Ministry of Law and the Attorney General's Office.

The committee directed the PHF to conduct immediate elections, with Tariq Bugti assuring that the process would be completed within two months. The Additional Attorney General informed the committee that the PHF General Council had expressed confidence in Bugti, tasking him with overseeing elections and an audit, as assigned by the caretaker Prime Minister.

Yasir Pirzada, Director General of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), raised concerns about Bugti's progress on his responsibilities, noting that the PHF had failed to provide data on its congress, associations, and clubs.

Federal Secretary for Inter-Provincial Coordination Muhyiddin Wani emphasized the need to resolve the ongoing dispute and urged Bugti to hold elections swiftly and step down responsibly. FIA officials revealed that they are reviewing the PHF's audit, objections, and irregularities, having requested relevant records from the federation. The committee directed the PHF to provide all records to the FIA for scrutiny.

During the hearing of a petition seeking the allowance, the chief justice questioned the conduct and work habits of the banking court staff and declined their request for immediate payment.

Justice Aalia Neelum remarked that many banking court employees are often absent from their seats and spend most of the day chasing lawyers to issue certified copies. Several lawyers have complained that the staff do not perform their duties properly, and only those who actually work should receive the judicial allowance.

Advocate Ahsan Bhoon appeared on behalf of the petitioners and complained that certified copies were not being provided and that objections from the office persisted. He argued that the employees are also part of the working class and deserve relief.

However, the chief justice stated that no immediate relief can be granted and that the matter will be decided along with the main case.

After hearing all objections, the court indicated that the issue would be linked to the main case for a final decision.

Initiatives of PHA for enhancing beauty of Rawalpindi's highways, parks appreciated

RAWALPINDI (INP): Punjab's Secretary Housing, Urban Development and Public Health Engineering Capt (R) Noorul Amin on Tuesday appreciated the ongoing initiatives of the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi for enhancing the beauty of the city's highways, parks and greenbelts.

During a visit to the Rawalpindi Development Authority, the Secretary reviewed various projects being executed by the PHA, including the beautification of Murree Road, development of greenbelts and other civic facilities. He also inspected progress on major development schemes such as the Rawalpindi Ring Road and Nullah Leh Expressway.

He lauded the efforts of PHA Director General Ahmed Hassan Ranjha for providing quality civic amenities and recreational opportunities, particularly for the youth, in public parks. He also endorsed the PHA's initiatives to establish jogging tracks and expand sports facilities across city parks.

Capt (R) Noorul Amin praised the dedication of PHA officers and staff, urging them to ensure transparency, commitment and timely completion of all projects.

On the occasion, PHA DG Ahmed Hassan Ranjha briefed the Secretary about the ongoing beautification campaigns and future plans of the authority.



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