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Pakistan Expands Powers of National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency Under Anti-Money Laundering Act

Field Marshal Asim Munir Reviews Flood Relief in Punjab, Pledges Support to Sikh Community

Muhammad Ilyas:

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff, visited flood affected areas of Punjab including Sialkot Sector, Shakargarh, Narowal and Kartarpur, the military's media wing said.

The visit was aimed to review the flood situation and the ongoing rescue and relief efforts, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

COAS was given a comprehensive brief on the prevailing situation and the preparations for the next spell of rains. COAS appreciated the troops and the civil administration for their coordinated and untiring efforts in rescuing and providing relief to the masses in affected areas.

COAS also interacted with the affected Sikh community of the area and assured the community that all religious sites affected during floods, including Durbur Sahib



Kartarpur, will be completely revived to their original condition at priority. He reiterated that it is the responsibility of the state and its institutions to protect the minorities and their religious sites and the state of Pakistan will leave no stone unturned to uphold its responsibility towards the minorities.

The Sikh Community welcomed the arrival of COAS with warmth at the flood affected areas of

Sialkot Sector.

The Sikh Community thanked the Army Chief for the services being extended by the civil administration and the Army during the calamity.

COAS also undertook the aerial flyover of Durbur Sahib Kartarpur.

During interaction with representatives of civil administration, COAS appreciated the proactive response which helped minimise the loss of lives and

property.

While interacting with troops, the COAS commended their high morale, operational readiness, and commitment for serving the nation. He appreciated their services for the people during rescue and relief operations under challenging circumstances.

Upon his arrival, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir was received by Corps Commander Gujranwala.



Quetta MNA Adil Bazai Resigns from Three NA Standing Committees on Imran Khan's Directives

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has imposed Section 144 across the province for a period of 15 days, according to an official notification.

Under the restrictions, public display of weapons, pillow riding and gatherings of five or more people have been strictly prohibited.

Political rallies, protests, and processions also fall under the ban.

The notification further stated that covering the face, wearing masks, and driving vehicles with tinted windows will not be



allowed during this period. Authorities have

warned that anyone found violating the or-

ders will face strict legal action.

Quetta MNA Adil Bazai Resigns from Three NA Standing Committees on Imran Khan's Directives

Staff Reporter:

QUETTA: Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Adil Khan Bazai from Quetta has resigned from three standing committees of the National Assembly.

The development came on Friday following directives from former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, Imran Khan.

Speaking to reporters, Bazai confirmed that his decision was

made in line with party instructions. He said that as a loyal member of PTI, he could not ignore the guidance of the former prime

minister, who continues to influence the party's parliamentary affairs from behind bars. Bazai emphasized that his resignation

should not be seen as a personal choice but as a political obligation, underscoring his commitment to the party's collective strategy. The move reflects growing pressure within

PTI ranks as lawmakers adjust to evolving political dynamics in the country. Bazai was elected MNA from NA-262 Quetta and has been an active political figure in Balochistan.

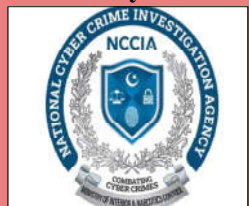


Pakistan Expands Powers of National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency Under Anti-Money Laundering Act

News Desk:

QUETTA: The Ministry of Interior has expanded the mandate of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), bringing a wide range of online crimes under the scope of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

According to the notification, the NCCIA will now investigate cases involving child pornography, online grooming, identity theft, electronic fraud, cyber terrorism, and the illegal issuance of SIM cards. The agency has also been empowered to take action against the spread of false or misleading information on social media, especially when



such content is used to generate financial gain. Officials said that under the amended law, earnings generated through misinformation or fraudulent online activities will be probed as money laundering. This move aims to curb the misuse of digital

platforms and ensure accountability in financial transactions linked to cyberspace.

The Interior Minister further stated that the NCCIA will play a vital role in protecting children from online exploitation and in countering human traffick-

ing, smuggling, and kidnapping facilitated through digital networks.

The government clarified that these changes are intended to strengthen cybercrime prevention and enhance the country's legal framework for digital security.

It may be recalled that in April 2025, the federal cabinet approved the establishment of the NCCIA under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016. Veteran cybercrime investigator Waqaruddin Syed was appointed as its first Director General. He previously headed the FIA's Cyber Crime Wing.

CTD arrests three 'most-wanted' SRA terrorists in Sindh's Jamshoro

NEWS DESK: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Hyderabad has arrested three 'most-wanted' terrorists affiliated with the banned Sindh Desh Revolutionary Army (SRA) in Jamshoro district during an intelligence-based operation, a statement from CTD said on Friday.

In 2020, the interior ministry banned the SRA, Jay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz-Aresar Group (JSQM-A), and Sindh Desh Liberation Army



(SLA) under the Anti-Terrorism Act. "CTD Hyderabad established a network to eliminate these terrorists through which information about

"The terrorists of the banned SRA were wanted in the cases related to firing on cargo travelers going to Punjab, especially in the areas of district Sujawal."

The statement detailed that the terrorists were found to possess a hand grenade, explosive material, detonator, ball bearings, nut bolts, remote control, battery, and prohibited weapons, including an 8MM rifle and bullets, which were confiscated following the operation.

Mohsin Naqvi, U.S. Envoy discuss enhanced cooperation in security & investment sectors

NEWS DESK: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi held a follow-up meeting on Friday with the United States Charge d'Affaires Natalie Baker, during which both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and advancing cooperation across multiple sectors.

The meeting covered a wide range of issues, including Pakistan-U.S. relations, mutual security concerns, and matters about Pakistanis wanted in the United States. Both parties agreed to expand collaboration in border security, counter-narcotics operations, coast guard capabilities, and forensic sciences, aiming to build more robust institutional linkages between the two countries.

Charge d'Affaires Baker expressed her condolences over the tragic loss of lives and property caused by the recent floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, extending the sympathies of the American people to those affected.

During the talks, Minister Naqvi welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump's recent remarks on working jointly with Pakistan to increase



oil reserves, describing the statement as a "positive and encouraging development."

"He emphasized that Pakistan offers significant opportunities for American investors, particularly in the energy sector, and assured that the government would provide every possible facilitation to U.S. businesses seeking to invest in Pakistan."

"American investors can greatly benefit from investment prospects in oil and other key sectors. The Government of Pakistan is committed to ensuring that they are fully supported," Naqvi stated.

Charge d'Affaires Baker reaffirmed that the United States attaches "special importance" to its relationship with Pakistan and expressed Washington's willingness to deepen cooperation in both economic and security domains.

The meeting was also attended by Federal Interior Secretary Muhammad Khurram Agha and Additional Interior Secretary Major General Noor Wali Khan, underscoring the significance of the dialogue for future collaboration.

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan's Climate Fund – A Lifeline Against Growing Disasters

Editorial:

Balochistan has been a historic and timely step by establishing its first-ever Climate Fund, a move that signals the province's recognition of the existential threat posed by global warming and climate change. In his recent meeting with British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti rightly underscored the urgency of mobilizing resources to safeguard communities from natural calamities that are growing in frequency and intensity.

Floods In Buzair

The tragic flash floods in the Buzair area of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa this month, which claimed precious human lives, are a grim reminder of Pakistan's extreme vulnerability. The province sits on a fragile ecological and seismic zone — prone not only to floods but also to recurring droughts, earthquakes, and the looming threat of desertification. Each disaster further strains an already fragile infrastructure, displaces communi-

ties, and deepens poverty.

Stop Deforestation

The Climate Fund, if implemented transparently and effectively, has the potential to become a lifeline for millions.

It can provide the financial base for disaster preparedness, early warning systems, reforestation, water management, and community resilience projects. Equally important, it can build trust between the government and people by showing that saved resources — like the Rs. 14 billion cartailed from non-developmental expenditures — are being invested in protecting lives and livelihoods.

The Battle Cannot Be Fought Alone

However, climate change is not a battle that Balochistan can fight alone. Partnerships with international allies, such as the United Kingdom, are essential for bringing technical expertise, innovative solutions, and funding support. Training local institutions, particularly in areas like disaster man-

agement and environmental conservation, should be a top priority.

The provincial government's commitment to reform its governance, education, and healthcare is commendable, but the climate emergency must remain the central focus of its development agenda. Without climate resilience, all other reforms being washed away by the next flood or crippled by the next drought.

Balochistan has shown leadership by creating this Climate Fund.

The next step is to ensure that it does not become another underutilized policy initiative. Effective monitoring, independent oversight, and community involvement will be key to making it a success.

The time has come when the government must now take all possible steps to translate the promise of the Climate Fund into tangible protections for the people of Balochistan.

By Muhammad Younus Dagher

Karachi: inequitable NFC impact

BORN in the name of devolution, propagated as people's rights, and celebrated as a victory for the deprived, the seventh National Finance Commission award has been nothing of the sort.

Its birth in 2010 coincided with the passage of the 18th Constitutional Amendment, which also created ambiguity about the role of the local governments (LGs), paving the way for the recentralisation of powers by the provincial governments.

Rather than bringing governance closer to the people, the seventh NFC award and the 18th Amendment took away whatever devolution of resources and powers existed with the LGs at that time.

In 1999, when the federal government abolished the octroi and zila tax (OZT) collection by the LGs, it introduced a 2.5 per cent increase in the GST on goods. A transparent mechanism for direct transfers to the LGs was introduced to compensate for their revenue losses. Later, the Distribution of Revenues & Grants-in-Aid Order of 2006 fixed these direct transfers at one-sixth of GST collection.

Had that system continued, Karachi would have received Rs190 billion in 2024-25 as a direct transfer from GST alone (as compensation for the OZT). Other district governments in Sindh, such as those in Ghokhi, Hyderabad and Thatta, would also have received direct transfers of Rs4,456 million, Rs4,486m and Rs3,618m respectively.

This right of the LGs was usurped through the seventh NFC and merged into the federal divisible pool. The provinces were allowed to use the LGs' share as they pleased. Karachi, being the largest collector of OZT, was the worst affected, receiving meagre amounts totalling less than Rs200bn from 2010-11 to 2024-25, against its due share of Rs1,236.7bn. Karachi suffered a colossal loss of more than Rs1,000bn, or one trillion rupees, after the seventh NFC under the OZT head alone.

The seventh NFC award and 18th Amendment took away whatever devolution of resources and powers existed with the LGs.

"Democracy", 'devolution of power' under the 18th Amendment and 'equitable distribution of resources' under the seventh NFC were meant only for those with political power in the provinces. After becoming mega-rich under the seventh NFC, the provinces were not bound to give equitable shares to the cities or districts.

Sindh spent 3.87bn in development funds from 2010-11 to 2024-25. Comprising 37pc of Sindh's population, Karachi was entitled to Rs1,416.6bn, but received only Rs472bn (a deficit of Rs944.6bn). The federal government's PSDP from 2010-11 to 2024-25 amounted to Rs8,967bn.

Constituting 8.4pc of the country's population, Karachi would have received Rs756.8bn. However, it received only Rs340bn (a deficit of Rs416.2bn). The total development deficit was Rs1,360bn (almost one and a half trillion rupees) from 2010-11 to 2024-25.

Due to such flaws in the 18th Amendment, the Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) has been dead

since 2009. The subjects of LGs have been taken back by the provincial government, including water, sewerage, solid waste management, master plan, building control, development agencies, transport, mass transit, land control, education, health, etc. Social indicators, including education and health, have nosedived since then.

The Infrastructure Development Cess has been collected since 1994 on goods at Karachi's ports for the development and maintenance of the infrastructure that the carriers use when they enter Karachi via national highways. Rather than creating a fund for Karachi's infrastructure, all the collection under the IDC is merged illegally into the provincial account. Last year, it was Rs170bn. The total IDC collection, since the cess's inception, estimated to be around Rs1,000bn or Rs1tr.

All these amounts, ie, direct transfers from GST taken away by the seventh NFC, deficit in development funds and misappropriation of IDC come to Rs3,360bn or over Rs3tr. It is about three times the amount of the infrastructure funding gap identified by the World Bank. "Karachi requires an estimated \$9-10bn [around Rs1,050bn in 2017] to bridge its service delivery and infrastructure gaps. Without this, the city's livability and competitiveness will continue to deteriorate, limiting its ability to drive Pakistan's growth" (Transferring Karachi into a Liveable and Competitive Megacity, 2017, World Bank).

All these years, we believed that: "All issues of Karachi, including water supply, drainage, sewage, public transport and solid waste disposal, will be addressed on time" as the then prime minister Imran Khan said, when announcing Rs1,100bn for the Karachi Transformation Plan in September 2020.

In a similar vein, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif declared in April 2022 that he had "asked the relevant authorities to fully complete the K-IV project by 2024. We cannot compromise on water supply projects". A year later, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said in June 2023, "I will take a personal interest in the development of the city". Earlier, in April 2019, MOM's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui had said: "We are taking this case to the public... We have had enough".

If Karachi gets just one year of its due share in provincial ADP (Rs372.7bn), federal PSDP (Rs84.4bn), IDC (Rs200bn) and a share in GST against OZT based on the 2006 formula (Rs222.7bn), the total would come to Rs879.8bn this year. It would mean complete funding for the K-IV water project (Rs73bn), the Karachi Circular Railway (Rs300bn), the two unfunded Blue and Brown BRIs (Rs180bn), sewage treatment plants at all discharge points (Rs270bn), and the complete rehabilitation of all Karachi roads.

If provided and spent honestly every year, these funds can bring Karachi closer to being a livable city in a few years, and Pakistan can regain its growth potential, which has been lost since the seventh NFC.

The nation expects the participants of the 11th NFC to work sincerely to: (i) undo the injustice of the seventh NFC and restore the one-sixth GST share as direct transfers to LGs based on the 2006 formula.

Town and country

"The antagonism between town and country begins with the transition from barbarism to civilisation, from tribe to State, from locality to nation, and runs through the whole history of civilisation to the present day."

—Karl Marx

HAVING ripped through Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir and KP, the new annual wave of monsoon-triggered flash floods is wreaking havoc in Punjab, laying bare the health, education and living standards, are as important as employment.

The two energy indicators of non-income dimensions, including electricity (no access to electricity) and cooking fuels (wood, dung and

As well as the five eastern rivers — has seen a massive flood peak in recorded history. I found nine other instances since 1959 when the Indus river system saw a flood peak of around 1m cuses or larger.

Three of those instances were in the summer of 1959, when rains ravaged Jammu for months on end and the water peaked, even larger, in the western rivers with relentless ferocity.

Over the next couple of days, the flood peak will converge at Punjab in southern Punjab, from where it will then enter

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Pakistani businessman brings taste of home to Khunjerab Pass

KHUNJERAB (INP): As summer tourism peaks from June to August, Pakistani businessman Rahber Khan is seeing brisk business at his small restaurant perched on the China-Pakistan border.

From 9 a.m. to noon, the Eagle Nest Coffee Room serves a fusion of Pakistani and Chinese dishes. "We want to mix both cuisines," Khan said. "I offer special service and even show customers how we Pakistani people enjoy our meals."

Khan has been running his restaurant since 2012. Originally from Hunza, a town near the border, he says the warm welcome from local people in Xinjiang has been key to his success.

"People here are very kind, especially the Tajik community. They respect and support us a lot," he noted. With similar tastes for beef, lamb and hearty dishes, Khan feels at home in the region. "Life here is very comfortable for me and my family. Pa-

kistan is my first home, but my second home is China," he said proudly.

"I've built a new house, my four children are in universities, and I feel lucky to support them through this business." The Khunjerab Pass, the only land border crossing between China and Pakistan, has long been a vital trade artery along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Once open only eight months a year

due to snow and altitude, it became a year-round crossing in December 2024, giving merchants like Khan greater opportunities.

Tashkurgan County in China and Hunza in Pakistan signed a sister-city agreement in June 2023 to promote cooperation in border trade, tourism and infrastructure, deepening people-to-people ties across the frontier.

Beyond trade, the pass is now a cultural and tourism hub, drawing tens of thousands of visitors each year.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Awami National Party leader Malak Amanullah Khan Mehtarzai meeting with Balochistan Governor Jafar Khan Mandokhel.

Dykes blown to save Jhang, Chiniot from raging floodwater

CHNIOT (INP): The authorities in Punjab have blown up dykes in order to save two major cities as the raging floodwater continued to sweep village after village, destroy standing crops, uproot people on Friday.

Amid the widespread destruction, the water level started to recede in Ravi River at Shahdara near Lahore after night-long chaos during which a number of localities were evacuated. The catastrophic flooding has so far claimed 20 lives, destroyed crops on hundreds of thousands of acres of land which runs into billions of rupees losses along with thousands of mudhouses being swept away and infrastructure decimated.

Punjab PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia said that floods

have claimed lives of at least 20 people. Addressing the media in Lahore, Kathia said "Most of the deaths occurred due to drowning and were reported mostly in Gujranwala division," adding no loss of life was reported due to any negligence in rescue services.

He announced that Punjab government will give one million rupees to each victim's family as compensation. Noting the magnitude of the situation, Kathia said that they made every possible effort to rescue people, using village helicopters or boats.

The Punjab government has launched one of its largest evacuation operations in recent years, as floodwaters affected over 1.46 million people across the province, with the Chenab River expected to swell to dangerous levels at

Head Trimma.

Extremely high floods in Sutlej, Ravi and Chenab rivers have also destroyed standing crops on vast swathes of land as the province is battling its worst flooding in four decades, which has caused havoc in 1,769 villages and submerged vital grain crops.

The deputy commissioner also signed a permission note allowing breaching of another dyke in Chubeh in Nankana, Sheikhupura and Toba Tek Singh and issued directives in this regard.

The Jhang deputy commissioner also signed a permission note allowing breaching of another dyke in Chubeh in Bahawana to ease the flood level in River Chenab. Railway track was uprooted at three places in Bahawana area of Chuhnd Bahrawana.

The authorities have blown up dykes to divert raging water from Chenab River to save Jhang and Chiniot cities. High flood level was recorded at Trimma Barrage in Jhang where water level was gauged at 120,000 cusecs. A meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Secretary in Lahore has decided to breach Rawaz Bridge dyke in order to save Jhang and Chiniot cities as a big flood wave was heading towards the region.

The meeting also decided to deploy additional administrative officers in flood-affected districts.

The meeting also decided to evacuate people from areas along the river belts in Nankana, Sheikhupura and Toba Tek Singh and issued directives in this regard.

The Jhang deputy commissioner also signed a permission note allowing breaching of another dyke in Chubeh in Bahawana to ease the flood level in River Chenab. Railway track was uprooted at three places in Bahawana area of Chuhnd Bahrawana.

Minister underscores vital role of trees in combating climate change

KARACHI (INP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr Musadik Malik, on Friday launched the Monsoon Tree Planting Campaign 2025 titled "Planting a Green Future" organized by the Sindh Forest Department.

The minister, accompanied by officials of the department and other participants, planted a sapling before his address, praying for the protection of the people and the growth of young tree into a strong shield for the future, talking to the media on the occasion, Dr Musadik Malik warned that devastating floods sweeping across the country had already entered Punjab and were

now moving towards Southern Punjab and Sindh. "As the water progresses, its intensity will only grow. I appeal through the media, please move out of the flood's path before it is too late," he urged.

He paid tribute to civil administration, rescue agencies, armed forces, and others working round the clock in flood-affected areas, and said Sindh's leadership had already mobilized across districts. "This is a natural disaster. It cannot be stopped, but lives can be saved if people step aside from its course," he stressed.

The minister underscored the vital role of trees in combating climate change. "Rising temperatures melt glaciers, and the root cause

is greenhouse gas emissions. The only natural machine that absorbs carbon dioxide is the tree," he said, adding free saplings will be provided in every province. "Planting trees is not a photo opportunity, it is an investment in survival. A tree lives for 50 to 100 years, protecting generations."

Dr Musadik Malik criticized the elite class for building housing schemes, hotels, and resorts along riverbanks, warning that such illegal encroachments worsened disasters. "When floods come, water does not distinguish between rich and poor. These concrete structures break apart and their debris destroys forests and nearby settlements. The Prime Minister has

made it clear: no one is more powerful than the state. Encroachments, hotels, and illegal resorts in flood pathways will be removed, this is our battle now," he declared.

The minister revealed that Pakistan was deploying advanced technology to map water reserves with private projects. These reserves will also provide water for year-round use," he suggested.

Highlighting the human toll, Dr Musadik Malik said over 800 people had already lost their lives in recent floods.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry presiding over a meeting on Hong Kong Convention compliance in the shipbreaking industry.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ireland Ms. Mary O'Neill called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

PM for joint strategy to tackle climate change, build water reservoirs

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that a comprehensive strategy is being prepared for the construction of water reservoirs and improved water management in all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

PM Shehbaz Sharif on Friday stated that water reservoirs would be built through consultation and complete coordination with the provinces. "Climate change is a reality, and only through effective preparedness

can the damages of natural disasters be minimized," he stressed. He further underlined that all provinces, Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and the Federated must work together to safeguard people from the adverse impacts of climate change, terming it a national issue that requires collective effort.

According to the prime minister's office, work is already underway on his directives to formulate an effective policy for timely response to the impacts

of climate change and the monsoon. The working paper of this policy will be shared with all provincial governments to devise a joint course of action.

The statement added that once the emergency situation subsides, the prime minister will convene a high-level meeting with the Chief Ministers of all four provinces, along with the heads of relevant institutions. The prime minister of A&K and the chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan will also be invited to the

session. Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz Sharif said the government stands firmly with all flood victims. According to a press statement issued by the Prime Minister office in Islamabad, he said the government is mobilizing all available resources to address the challenges faced by the flood affected people.

He commended the gesture on the part of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) employees to donate one day's salary to support the flood victims.

Pakistan to establish Maritime Complex at Port Qasim with Chinese support

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan is preparing to establish an integrated maritime industrial complex at Port Qasim with Chinese support, following high-level talks in Islamabad on 20 August 2025.

During the meeting, a delegation from Shandong, China, led by chairman Hou Jianxin, conveyed its interest in developing the complex alongside a green ship-recycling yard.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office said that Shehbaz Sharif had invited Chinese industries to invest in Pakistan, assuring them that the government would provide all possible facilities for the establishment of Special Economic Zones.

The PMO commented that Shandong Xinxu is "interested in establishing a maritime

industrial complex in Pakistan" and that the company "will build a green shipbreaking yard to meet international environmental and safety standards, in contrast to the troubled Gadani ship-breaking yards, which have faced repeated criticism over labour and pollution concerns."

The planned Port Qasim complex would combine port operations with shipbuilding, repair and recycling facilities, alongside industrial clusters for fish and date processing. Shandong Xinxu Group, described as "a high-tech energy enterprise integrating the renewable energy industry chain", has indicated willingness to bring investment and technical expertise.

The development builds on a Memorandum of Understanding signed in July 2025 between the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) and Shandong Xinxu Group to cooperate on shipping and fleet

management. The proposed "green" shipbreaking yard would be designed to meet international environmental and safety standards, in contrast to the troubled Gadani ship-breaking yards, which have faced repeated criticism over labour and pollution concerns.

Strategic and Economic Implications

Port Qasim, situated 50 kilometres east of Karachi is Pakistan's second busiest port, handling about 35% of the nation's cargo (17 million tons per annum). Officials believe the new industrial complex would strengthen its role as a logistics and manufacturing hub, complementing Gwadar Port's development under the China-Pakistan Eco-

nom Corridor (CPEC). The initiative is expected to create thousands of jobs in construction, maritime trades and logistics. It would also expand Pakistan's capacity in ship-recycling, a sector long dominated by India and Bangladesh, where international buyers increasingly demand environmentally compliant facilities.

Chinese representatives have also highlighted fisheries and food processing as areas with export potential. The PMO said the enterprise aimed "to benefit from Pakistan's potential in fishing, fish processing and in the processing of date fruits." Pakistan is already a significant producer of seafood and dates but lacks modern processing capacity, limiting its ability to compete in higher-value markets.

Confucius Institute opens at GU, expanding Chinese language education in SP

ISLAMABAD (INP): South Punjab's first Confucius Institute has been inaugurated at Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan, in collaboration with the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), marking a significant step in advancing Chinese language and cultural studies in the region.

The institute was launched earlier this month with an orientation session attended by faculty members, students, and officials. Around 200 students have already enrolled in the first phase to learn Chinese reading and speaking skills.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Abdul Aleem, who led the effort, said the initiative would create "new horizons in education, employment, and business for the youth of South Punjab," while also boosting opportunities linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The launch at Ghazi University comes as part of a broader expansion of the Confucius Institute at UAF (CUAF). In June this year, CUAF signed agreements with three universities including the University of Faisalabad (TUF), Chulian University of Veterinary and Animal

Sciences, Bahawalpur, and Ghazi University, to establish Chinese sub-campus and strengthen academic cooperation between China and Pakistan. The new sub-campus, particularly in South Punjab, will directly address the growing demand for Chinese language proficiency in Pakistan and enable students to benefit from expanding economic cooperation under CPEC, according to Gwadar Port.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

ONLY ELECTRONIC BID WILL BE SUBMITTED. NO PHYSICAL BID IS REQUIRED The Executive Engineer, Buildings CWP/PAF Department Sadder Quetta invites Bids from Eligible Bidders for Execution of Following Work for The Year 2025-26 Based on Composite Schedule Rates 2023 on Percentage Basis. Earnest Money 2% in Shape of Call Deposit, Tender Fee 1500/- and Time limit 12 Months for each work.

S.No.	Name of work	Est Cost
1	FLOOD LIGHT IN HOCKEY GROUND AYUB SPORTS COMPLEX, QUETTA.	Rs. 321M

PSDP 5531/2024/2667 TSE-23698831543

The Office of the Executive Engineer Buildings CWP/PAF Department Sadder Quetta invites technical proposals of Contractors/firms, along with financial proposals (Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure) for above mentioned work from interested firms / Contractors. All interested bidders are required to submit documents as per following brief in support of their technical/financial proposal. The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Subordinate Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules 2014 and Pakistan Engineering Council By-Laws. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** (a) Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Up to 65 million Relevant Category And Specialized Codes: C-5 (B) General Civil Engineering Works, E-1 (W) General Electrical Works, Only, E-2 (Specialized Lighting System), BID SECURITY: The bid must accompany bid security in the form of call deposit or bank guarantee of amount specified above in the name of the tender signed and stamped by the bidder. (b) Financial Proposal: The Financial Proposal shall consist of the following documents: (a) The bidder must have completed 02 Assignment of similar nature of work in last Three Years along with their Verification letters in fresh dates from concerned department. (b) At least 01 Similar Work with cost and completion in hand in last three years with their verification letters in fresh dates from concerned department. (c) Fresh Registration in 2025-26 / Clearance from Income Tax Department and BRIA. (d) Detail Turnover of at least Rs. 32,424,803/- for the last (3) years showing the financial capacity of firm. As per criteria specified in the Bidding Documents. (e) Under taking on judicial Stamp paper that the firm was never black listed / not liable by any Government/ Semi Government Organization, securities for each work (Altered By 1" Class Magistrate) (f) Bid Security @ 2% of bid quoted amount must be in the form of call deposit in favor of the office Name of the tender signed from a scheduled bank of Pakistan. No Cheque will be acceptable. **FINANCIAL PROPOSALS** shall consist of the following documents: (A) Detail BOC with Quoted Rates in sealed envelope mentioned the name & Title of scheme. **DEADLINES OF SUBMISSION:** 15th September, 2025 at 9:00 Hrs. **OPENING:** The Technical Bids will be opened on the same day 15th September, 2025 at 10:00 Hrs. The Financial bids of technically responsive / qualified bidders will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evaluation of the technical bids. **Bids Validity:** Minimum (90) days. **Place:** The place of submission, inquiries and opening will be: The Office of the Executive Engineer, Buildings CWP/PAF Sadder Quetta at spin road Quetta, Office Phone No. 881-8213152. Email Address: sen.bidding.sadder@gmail.com

PRO No. 924/29-8-2025

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Buildings) CWP/PAF Department Sadder Quetta

Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) predicts rain in various parts of country

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted rain-wind/thundershowers at isolated places in Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Upper and Eastern Punjab while hot and humid weather is likely to grip other parts of the country on Friday.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), isolated heavy downpours are also likely in Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Northeastern Punjab during the forecast period.

The Met Office has warned that heavy rainfall on August 29 and 30 may generate flash floods in local nullahs and streams of Dir, Swat, Shangla, Buner, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Nowshera, Swabi, Murree, Galliat, Islamabad/

Rawalpindi, Northeast Punjab, Kashmir and hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan.

The downpours may also cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Sialkot, Narowal, Peshawar, Nowshera and Mardan. Landslides and mudslides may disrupt road links in hilly regions of KP, Murree, Galliat and Kashmir.

In Islamabad, partly cloudy and humid weather with a 65 percent chance of isolated rain-wind/thundershowers has been predicted.

In Punjab, hot and humid conditions will prevail in most districts, while rain and thundershowers are expected in Murree, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Sahiwal and several other districts. Northeast-

ern Punjab may witness isolated heavy falls.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will also remain hot and humid in most areas, although rain and thundershowers are likely in Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Dir, Swat and adjoining districts, with heavy falls in the upper parts.

In Sindh, hot and humid weather will dominate, but Sanghar, Mirpur Khas, Tharparkar and Umarkot may receive rain and thundershowers.

Balochistan is also expected to remain mostly hot and humid, though Zhob and Musa Khel may witness isolated rain. In Kashmir, cloudy conditions with rain and thundershowers are likely, while Gilgit-Baltistan will remain partly cloudy and hot.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan, with the delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) led by its President, and members of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), after the policy consultation meeting.

Pakistan Army continues rescue efforts in flood-affected Punjab

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Army is actively conducting rescue and relief operations in flood-affected areas across Punjab, including Sialkot, Narowal, Gujranwala, and Head Khanki.

Army personnel, using helicopters and boats, are evacuating stranded residents to safer locations. Among those rescued are elderly citizens, women, and children, who are being immediately relocated to relief centers for care and support.

In collaboration with civil administration, the Pakistan Army has set up rescue and relief camps for flood victims. These camps are providing essential services, including food, basic medical aid, and other necessary facilities.

Flood victims have expressed appreciation for the Army's timely response and dedicated efforts in managing the crisis.

sis and ensuring public safety. Ravi River is flowing in very high flood level in Shahdara with water level continuously increasing. Currently 220,000 cusecs of water is passing in Shahdara, with expectations of further increase.

Due to the serious risk of flooding in low-lying areas, a high alert has been issued.

According to the Lahore Commissioner, the River Ravi has a capacity of 250,000 cusecs. All departments, including the district administration, are fully prepared to handle any untoward situation. Evacuation of residents from the affected areas is underway.

At Jassar, the water flow has been recorded at over 166,000 cusecs, and at the Syphon point, a moderate flood has now turned into a high flood, with a flow of

99,700 cusecs. The threat of flooding in low-lying areas has intensified, prompting a high alert.

The River Ravi's floodwater has entered the Kartarpur Corridor. Punjab Rangers rescued 200 to 300 people stranded in the water and also rescued 35 people and their livestock trapped in Head Sulemanki area.

Punjab Rangers, along with other agencies, continued rescue operations in flood-affected border areas. Narowal Road has been submerged under floodwater, and the Shakargarh Highway has been closed to traffic.

In Shakargarh, a flood wave of 250,000 cusecs passed through Kot Nainan, submerging dozens of villages. At Bhiko Chak, a breach developed in the river embankment, prompting evacuations from the affected villages.

Ravi River submerges private housing society near Chuhang

LAHORE (INP): The water level in the Ravi River has surged significantly at Shahdara and Baloki, triggering an exceptionally high flood situation and forcing evacuations.

The rising waters have inundated a private housing society near Chuhang on Multan Road, while several neighborhoods in Shahdara, including Farrukhabad and Aziz Colony, are facing flooding. Local residents in the affected areas have reported severe disruptions as floodwater enters homes and streets.

Authorities have begun evacuating residents from vulnerable houses, and announcements are being made through local mosques, urging people to move to safer locations. According to the administration, two schools in Farrukhabad have been converted into relief camps, with food and basic facilities being arranged for displaced families.

However, some residents are still stranded near the breached sections of the embankment, along with their livestock, awaiting assistance. The Flood Force-

casting Division has confirmed that a very high-level flood is underway at the Syphon point of Shahdara. The water flow at this location has surged, reaching a current volume of 215,550 cusecs. Emergency teams remain on high alert, while relief efforts continue in the affected zones.

A fresh alert has been issued for the Chenab and Ravi rivers as water released by India will enter this evening. According to Punjab's Flood Forecasting Department, water will reach Head Trimmu on the Chenab River in the evening causing extremely high-level flood. Another extreme flood surge is forecasted to reach Head Panjnad on September 2.

The Ravi River has also caused destruction in Narang Mandi, where thousands of acres of agricultural land have been devastated. Due to the disruption of the communication system, many villages and settlements have been cut off from land routes. Floodwaters from the Ravi River have also entered the Ring Road. Chuhang has been submerged forcing people to re-

locate.

Floodwaters also reached several areas including Mahowz Garden, Barkat Colony, and Manawan. Farrukhabad, Aziz Colony, Amin Park, Afghan Colony, and Shahdara have also gone underwater. The city administration has claimed that it is ensuring the evacuation of residents from these areas.

Several villages in Narowal have been submerged, with standing crops on thousands of acres of land destroyed. The Shakargarh-Narowal Road has also gone underwater, while the railway track in Qila Ahmadabad has been closed due to flood.

In the Lalian tehsil of Chinot, the protective embankment of Mauza Kalri developed a breach as a result of which more than a hundred villages were inundated. In Chinot, a flood surge of more than 853,000 cusecs is passing through. In Sahiwal, a breach has started to form in the Aurangabad embankment. The nearby settlements have come under threat from the rising waters, and the administration has instructed residents to move to safer locations.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, holding a meeting today at the Finance Division with a group of leading IAF investors and businessmen led by Mr. Mohamed Baradei - Group CEO of the EIX, an Abu Dhabi-based global company specializing in investment and strategic advisory services.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at this Residence.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Ayaz Sadiq discuss parliamentary cooperation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday discussed enhancing institutional cooperation between the two Houses of Parliament and strengthening parliamentary coordination on national and international issues.

During a meeting at the Chairman Senate's residence in the Federal capital, Gilani briefed the Speaker on preparations for the upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference, scheduled for November 11-12, 2025.

He informed that the event would bring together representatives from more than 45 countries, making it one of the most significant multilateral parliamentary gatherings ever hosted by Pakistan.

He said that the conference would deliberate on key

global challenges, including regional peace, sustainable development, climate change, and the need for collective strategies to address emerging threats. On the occasion, Ayaz Sadiq extended heartfelt condolences to the Senate Chairman over the demise of his cousin, Syed Tanveer ul Hassan Gilani.

Paying tribute, he described the late Gilani as a pious and community-oriented individual whose religious, spiritual, and social services would be long remembered. The Speaker assured the Senate Chairman of the National Assembly's full support in ensuring the successful organisation of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference. He expressed confident expectations that the event would serve as an important opportunity for Pakistan to demon-

strate its commitment to global dialogue, cooperation, and peacebuilding. Both leaders also exchanged views on the prevailing political and economic situation.

A significant part of the discussion was devoted to the devastating impact of recent rains and floods, particularly the situation caused by India's release of floodwaters into the rivers of Punjab, which has aggravated human and material losses in the affected areas.

They jointly appealed to the people of Pakistan to adopt precautionary measures amid the ongoing natural calamity and to extend full cooperation with the government and relevant authorities. The leaders stressed that united national efforts were essential to minimise casualties and mitigate financial damages.

Pak-China agricultural cooperation makes breakthrough in sugarcane research

ISLAMABAD (INP): China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation has delivered breakthroughs in sugarcane research, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

Dr. Talha Javed and Dr. Faisal Mehdi, two Pakistani experts at the Institute of Tropical Bioscience and Biotechnology, Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CAIAS), have achieved the breakthroughs in sugarcane molecular breeding and disease resistance research respectively, injecting new impetus into the collaborative innovation between the two countries in the tropical agricultural sector.

In the realm of sugarcane molecular breeding, Dr. Talha Javed and his team verified the function of the PR1 gene (SnpPR1.04) and cultivated

two transgenic ROC22 seedlings carrying this gene through an Agrobacterium-mediated transformation system, laying a crucial foundation for the development of disease-resistant sugarcane varieties.

Additionally, via transcriptome sequencing, the team further uncovered the activation mechanism of defence responses mediated by PR1 expression. Meanwhile, in the sugarcane disease resistance research project led by Dr. Faisal Mehdi, after treatment with endophytes, the growth status and photosynthetic rate of sugarcane improved significantly, while its antioxidant activity and hydrolytic activity were greatly enhanced, effectively boosting the crop's stress resistance. Through transcriptomic analy-

sis, the team successfully identified key disease-resistant genes in sugarcane and revealed the protein interaction networks involved in antioxidant activity, MAPK signal transduction, and hormone regulation.

Both Pakistani experts emphasized that China and Pakistan enjoy a solid foundation for cooperation in the agricultural sector, with immense potential for collaboration in sugarcane breeding, green cultivation, and disease prevention and control. "Through close cooperation between the two sides, not only can advanced agricultural technologies developed by China be introduced to Pakistan to support the local development, but also Pakistan's outstanding research results can be brought to China," they told CEN.



HYDERABAD: Provincial Minister and Focal person for flood emergency Riaz Shah Sheerazi briefs the media about flood situation in River Indus at Jamshoro.

Sindh govt fully prepared to deal with potential threat of flood: Sharjeel

NEWS DESK: Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that the provincial government is fully prepared to deal with the 'potential flood threat' and that arrangements are being made to relocate people to safe areas, if necessary.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, he said that the Pakistan Peoples Party and the Sindh government stood by them in this difficult time and supported Punjab government's relief and rescue efforts.

Mr Memon said that the Sindh government was fully prepared to respond to any emergency. "We are working closely with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to mitigate the impact of the floods," he added.

He said that preparations were underway to handle potential emergencies, with essential supplies such as boats, tents, coolers, and kitchen equipment stockpiled. "A dedicated cell has been established to closely monitor the flood situation and coordinate with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for swift response to any emergencies," he added.

The senior minister provided a detailed update on the flood situation at barrages, citing the inflow and outflow at Guddu, Sukkur and Kotri.

According to the data collected on Thursday evening, the inflow at Guddu is 300,232, and

the outflow is 333,361. At Sukkur, the inflow is 212,300, and the outflow is 266,370, while at Kotri, the inflow is 211,870, and the outflow is 244,025. Leaves cancelled.

Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, chairing a meeting on the possible flood situation in the province, directed all essential service departments, including irrigation, local government, health, police, public health, livestock, as well as deputy commissioners' offices, to cancel all leaves of their relevant employees to ensure availability of a maximum number of personnel for emergency duties. He asked all commissioners and DCs to prepare comprehensive contingency plans, giving priority to the safety of people and livestock.

He also directed that inventory of all government and private machinery and resources should be maintained so that they could be utilised immediately when required.